Hafa Adai!

Seven who sued Gold Mantis ask for over $30K attorney's fees. PAGE 2

FSM citizens stranded in Marshalls to return on Oct. 30. PAGE 3

75¢

Saipan Tribune

ACS OFFICIALLY OPENS

Guests walk through the Alternate Care Site at Kanoa Resort during the official unveiling and turnover of the ACS to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. yesterday morning. The newly-opened ACS takes up the entire left side of the hotel lobby. The ACS will act as a safe haven for current and future potential COVID-19 cases. It is equipped with hospital beds, a pharmacy, multiple air ventilators, facilities for doctors and nurses, an Intensive Care Unit with hemodialysis and medical imaging capabilities, and a discharge room.

NEIL FAMA

Volume XXX, Issue No. 215

THURSDAY OCTOBER 29, 2020

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AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, Oct. 28, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	4,336	82	4,418
Recovered	2,603	8	2,611
Active	1,650	82	1,732
Deaths	75	1	76
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested		65,247	

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	92	0	92
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested		19,345*	

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases. The community-based testing has been temporarily suspended.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- **Red:** Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

NMI'S FIRST TRAFFIC FATALITY OF 2020

Man dies in As Terlaje crash

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI saw its first traffic-related fatality this week following a car accident last weekend along As Terlaje Hill, when a car slammed into the accident-prone traffic signal lamp post at the Northern Marianas College intersection.

See MAN on **Page 4**

Spike in fraudulent PUA claims

» **PUA to receive more funds**

» **'No issue of bounced checks'**

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Department of Labor has received hundreds

See SPIKE on **Page 4**

IN RELEASING PUA MONEY

Finance reverting back to quicker direct deposits

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig said they are working with the government's main bank, Bank of Guam, to revert

See FINANCE on **Page 4**

DPS' Rios is NMCADSV Bridge of Light awardee

The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence has named Department of Public Safety officer Rose Taman Rios as the recipient of the 2020 Bridge of Light Award.

This annual award is presented by NMCADSV to honor one extraordinary individual who has worked

See DPS on **Page 4**

Department of Public Safety officer Rose Taman Rios, center, accepts the 2020 Bridge of Light Award, which was recently presented at DPS headquarters. The BOLA is given out each year by the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence to honor the accomplishments and efforts of one individual who has worked to end domestic violence and sexual assault in the CNMI. NMCADSV

INSIDE

BUSINESS
August Supermarket opens last week along Kadena Di Amor Street at the back of Wild Bill's.

PAGE 12

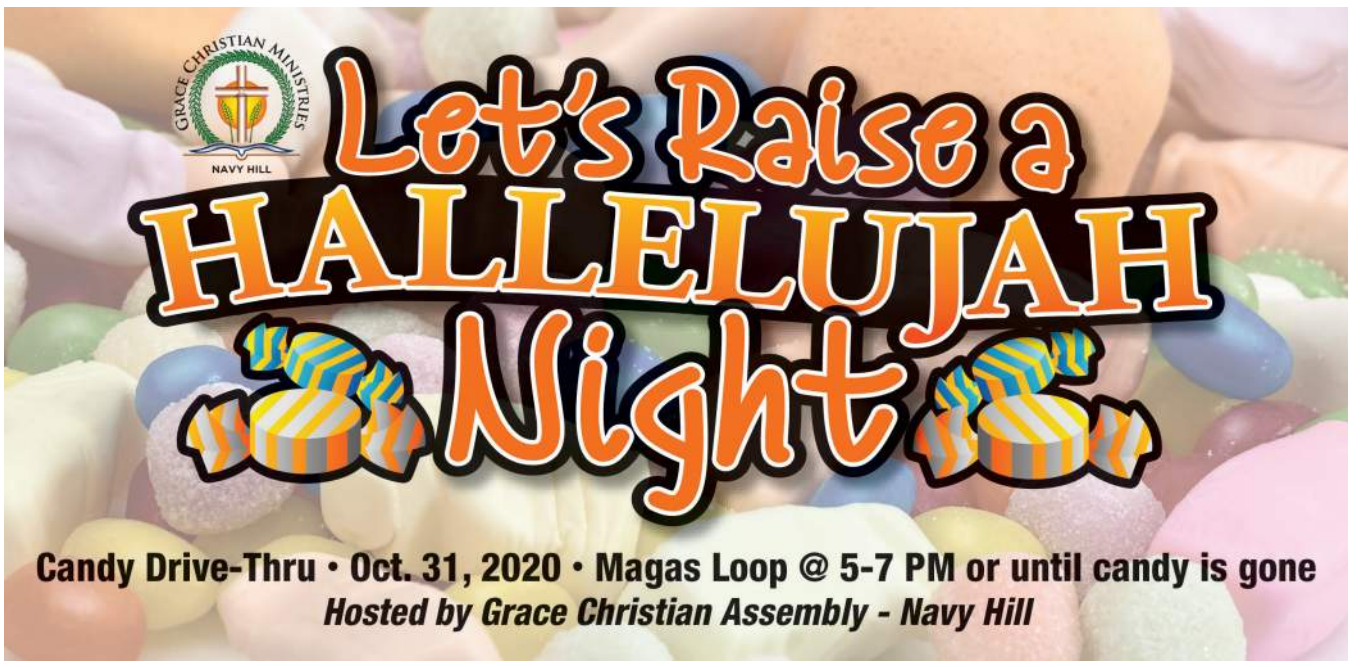
WORLD
At least four people, including two young children, die when a boat capsized off France.

PAGE 13

ENVIRONMENT
Are you heading to the beach today? Make sure to check out the beach signs to see if it is safe.

PAGE 14

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.


GRACE CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES
NAVY HILL
Let's Raise a HALLELUJAH Night
Candy Drive-Thru • Oct. 31, 2020 • Magas Loop @ 5-7 PM or until candy is gone
Hosted by Grace Christian Assembly - Navy Hill

How to avoid PHISHING
What is phishing?
Phishing is a fraudulent attempt to steal your personal information such as usernames, passwords, account numbers, social security number, and other important information.
What are some red flags I can use to identify a phishing attempt?
YOU RECEIVE AN EMAIL FROM SOMEONE OUT OF THE ORDINARY.
THE EMAIL CALLS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION BY CLICKING ON A HYPERLINK.
THERE ARE MISSPELLINGS.
YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION IS NEEDED.
What do I do if I come across a phishing email?
DO NOT CLICK ON ANY HYPERLINKS.
DO NOT TRANSFER MONEY TO PEOPLE UNKNOWN TO YOU.
DO NOT ENTER ANY PERSONAL INFORMATION.
Contact the Bank immediately if you have already entered personal information.
DELETE THE MESSAGE.
For more information on how to stay safe from phishing, visit our Fraud Information Center at www.bankofguam.com.
Bank of Guam
EQUAL HOUSING LENDER
Member FDIC

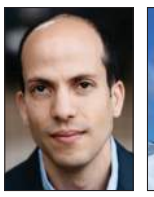
Local

Seven workers who sued Gold Mantis ask for over $30K in attorney's fees

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The seven construction workers from China who are suing Gold Mantis Construction Decoration (CNMI) LLC for injuries that they allegedly sustained at the casino worksite are asking the federal court to grant them over $30,000 in attorney's fees.

Aaron Halegua, the off-island-based lawyer of the seven construction workers, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to award them $30,517.80 in attorneys' fees. Halegua, who is based in New York, said in his motion that the request for attorneys' fees is reasonable.


Halegua

Berline

The request is based on Halegua's rate of $400 per hour, co-counsel Bruce Berline's rate, which is $300 per hour, and the $160 per hour rate for two law student interns who performed legal research and other work on the lawsuit.

Halegua billed 62.62 hours of work totaling $25,048; Berline billed 3.95 hours for a total of $1,185; and the two interns billed a total of 26.78 hours of work for a total of $4,284.80.

The plaintiffs—Tianming Wang, Dong Han, Yongjun Meng, Liangcai Sun, Youli Wang, Qingchun Xu, and Duxin Yan—have sued their former employer, Gold Mantis, a former subcontractor of casino investor Imperial Pacific International LLC, for injuries they sustained on the job.

District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona recently granted the workers' request to order Gold Mantis to produce discovery materials in the plaintiffs' lawsuit alleging labor and other violations. The judge directed Gold Mantis to obtain and produce financial records, tax records, and produce other documents and electronically stored information or ESI.

The judge also granted their request for attorney' fees related to the filing of the motion against Gold Mantis.

MCC and IPI have been named co-defendants in the workers' amended complaint, which also alleged human trafficking violations.

The plaintiffs have asked the federal court to award them $3.86 million in compensatory damages and $7.72 million in punitive damages.

Man allegedly cuts woman's throat

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court imposed a $20,000 cash bail on a man who is accused of cutting a woman's throat and strangling her.

Youlin Zhou, who is facing assault with a dangerous weapon and strangulation charges, was given a cash bail of $20,000. However, because Zhou was unable to make bail, he remains in the custody of the Department of Corrections.

Zhou, 46, through his lawyer, waived his scheduled preliminary hearing before Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan.

According to court documents, the victim, through a translator, told police that Zhou was her boyfriend and that she was ending their relationship, which resulted in him reacting in rage. The victim said Zhou choked her and twisted her thumb to prevent her from leaving when they were at a bar in Garapan. Zhou then took out a knife and cut her throat twice.

Police officers noted that the victim had two lacerations on her neck.

The victim said that when Zhou calmed down, he called a taxi to take them to his apartment.

The taxi driver who was taking them home asked the victim about her neck so she told the driver what allegedly happened. The driver then called a friend who spoke better English, who also served as an interpreter for the victim.

In a statement to the police, Zhou claimed that the victim is a sex worker and that he got very angry because she did not want to follow him home after paying her for sexual services. He added that she told him she had another client waiting for her.

Zhou said the victim also told him she did not love him anymore so he used both hands to choke her. Zhou said that he choked the victim for less than a minute.

Zhou also admitted to police that he used his right hand to hold the knife and tried to cut the victim's neck. Zhou then said he threw the knife out of the car when they were heading home.

FSM citizens stranded in Marshalls to return on Oct. 30

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On Oct. 27, 2020, the Federated States of Micronesia government completed the last of its technical requirements to initiate repatriation of the nation's citizens from COVID-19-free jurisdictions.

The FSM states of Pohnpei and Kosrae will be accepting citizens stranded in the Republic of the Marshall Islands on Oct. 30, 2020.

Only FSM citizens will be repatriated on the flight, which is chartered through Air Marshall Islands. All citizens will be tested for COVID-19 prior to arrival, and will submit themselves to standardized quarantine procedures in Pohnpei and Kosrae, to include additional COVID-19 testing prior to entry into the community.

At the same time that the FSM government was finalizing the remaining details on the repatriation effort from the Marshall Islands, FSM president David W. Panuelo spoke for approximately three hours in a teleconference with the stranded MiCare medical patients. The purpose of the teleconference was to give the stranded citizens the opportunity to hear from the president himself as to what the nation is doing to assist FSM's stranded citizens.

While the president's answers were broadly consistent with the information relayed to the public from the Office of the President's Division of Public Information and the FSM COVID-19 Task Force's Risk Communications team, such as that the 12 medical patients alone have received $470,000 in total per diems and other MiCare assistance, Panuelo announced that the nation is looking into collaborating with the United States to conduct a humanitarian assistance flight on or around the time of Operation Christmas Drop (i.e. approximately sometime in early December).

"We're working with the U.S. to see the possibility of chartering a U.S. military aircraft, to see if it can coincide with the schedule of Operation Christmas Drop. I will ask that the U.S. cooperate with our parameters, such that the crew is tested for COVID-19 and follow decontamination procedures. Medical patients, the two FSM Congress senators, and diplomats from the United States, Japan, and Australia, would still undergo the pre-quarantine procedures at [a designated facility] for 14 days, including COVID-19 testing several times, and then possibly arrive sometime in December," Panuelo said. "Because of the rapidly evolving situation with COVID-19, I am not promising that this will happen. But I want you to know that we are seriously exploring this. I appreciate that you want to be home before Christmas, and while I regret that I cannot promise that because I must protect the FSM from the virus, we do care about our citizens stranded abroad." ***(PR)***

TRIPLE J
35th ANNIVERSARY SALES EVENT
HYUNDAI mazda MITSUBISHI

2014 FIAT FIAT 500C CONVERTIBLE
34,718 MILES · STK: 14BC73400
SALE PRICE $7,995
KBB: 7,365

2017 TOYOTA YARIS HATCHBACK
24,305 MILES · STK: 17BC53703
SALE PRICE $10,995
KBB: $11,846

2015 NISSAN ROUGE SELECT
52,781 MILES · STK: 15BC56523
SALE PRICE $10,995
KBB: $10,151

$0 DOWN *ON APPROVED CREDIT ★ QUALITY USED CARS ★ MANY VEHICLES BELOW COST

2018 MITSUBISHI MIRAGE G4
14,339 MILES · STK:18BC54885
SALE PRICE $9,995
KBB: $9,196
SOLD

2017 HYUNDAI ACCENT GLS
39,201 MILES · STK:7R220
SALE PRICE $11,995
KBB: $12,682

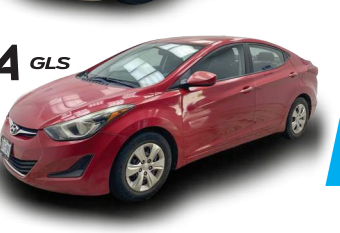
2018 MAZDA MAZDA3 SPORT
28,889 MILES · STK:18BC54873
SALE PRICE $15,995
KBB: $16,219

2018 MITSUBISHI MIRAGE G4
13,073 MILES · STK:18BC54880
SALE PRICE $9,995
KBB: $9,318

2016 HYUNDAI ELANTRA GLS
29,072 MILES · STK:16BC051
SALE PRICE $11,995
KBB: $12,943

2018 MAZDA MAZDA3 SPORT
15,847 MILES · STK:18BC54860
SALE PRICE $15,995
KBB: $16,545

2018 MITSUBISHI MIRAGE G4
11,239 MILES · STK:18BC54883
SALE PRICE $9,995
KBB: $9,364


2016 HYUNDAI ELANTRA GLS
35,868 MILES · STK:16BC091
SALE PRICE $11,995
KBB: $13,365

2018 MAZDA MAZDA3 SPORT
16,856 MILES · STK:18BC54859
SALE PRICE $15,995
KBB: $16,796

2015 NISSAN ROUGE SELECT
35,753 MILES · STK:15BC56519
SALE PRICE $10,995
KBB: $10,956
SOLD

2016 HYUNDAI VELOSTER HATCHBACK
47,079 MILES · STK:18HS938-A
SALE PRICE $13,995
KBB: $14,681

2015 MAZDA MAZDA3 HATCHBACK
56,995 MILES · STK:5R219
SALE PRICE $14,995
KBB: $15,460

2015 NISSAN ROUGE SELECT
35,935 MILES · STK:15BC56520
SALE PRICE $10,995
KBB: $10,956

2016 HYUNDAI VELOSTER HATCHBACK
39,217 MILES · STK:20H068-A
SALE PRICE $14,995
KBB: $15,830

2016 TOYOTA PRIUS C
31,932 MILES · STK:20D134-A
SALE PRICE $14,995
KBB: $16,685

2017 TOYOTA YARIS HATCHBACK
23,701 MILES · STK:17BC53702
SALE PRICE $10,995
KBB: $11,863

2018 KIA FORTE HATCHBACK LX
9,422 MILES · STK:18HS918
SALE PRICE $14,995
KBB: $18,614

2018 MAZDA MAZDA3 SPORT
9,604 MILES · STK:18HS904
SALE PRICE $16,995
KBB: $19,059

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Vehicles disinfected before and after every test drive
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Tropical depression forms west of Marianas

A tropical depression named 22W was seen forming west of the Marianas yesterday afternoon and the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam is keeping a close watch.

According to an NWS weather forecast, Tropical Depression 22W started off as a disturbance west of Guam and was upgraded to a tropical depression by 3pm yesterday.

NWS issued its first public advisory on Tropical Depression 22W at 1pm.

Tropical Depression 22W was centered 405 miles west-northwest of Guam and was moving west at 7 mph with maximum sustained winds of 30 mph.

Currently, Tropical Depression 22W poses no threat to Guam, the CNMI, Yap, or Palau.

Tropical Depression 22W will continue generally westward across the Philippine Sea toward the Philippines in the coming days.

NWS said they also continue to watch a broad disturbance that is currently located southeast of Guam. The disorganized system is characterized by a developing low-level circulation centered south-southwest of Chuuk and another circulation north-northwest of Kosrae.

At this time, NWS is looking at a passage of a developing tropical system near and south of Guam on Saturday. ***(Kimberly Bautista)***

Villagomez on trick-or-treating: Parental guidance is key

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The traditional Halloween trick-or-treating is coming up this weekend, together with lots of questions about how children can take part safely in these times of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Warren Villagomez, who chairs the COVID-19 Task Force, does not encourage public area trick-or-treating that invites congregation. However, if it comes to that point, he pleads for parents to watch over their kids.

Villagomez stated that if anyone is planning to have a public treat-or-treat, they must send in a letter to the Department of Public Safety sub-task force and the CNMI's COVID-19 Task Force for guidance and approval.

Villagomez stated that if you're planning to have a "grab 'n' go" style of trick-or-treating, the task force will provide guidance on "how can you be guided and informed on all the protective measures in the packing state of handouts."

"We are recommending, even at a residential setting, that if you're going to do that [treat-or-treating], you are allowed [to do so] with control measures," said Villagomez. An example would be for candy bags that are already put together and packed with hygiene precautions and labeled. This is more for parents to know where that bag of candy came from.

Villagomez stated that they don't have enough enforcement capability and tools that will manage those kinds of activities.

Additionally, if the task force were to allow this public event to happen, then other entities will want to have their own trick or treating event as well and it will essentially have a domino effect and, with the task force not having enough enforcement capabilities, it would be better to practice this in a private setting.

"We are weighing our options. ...We don't want to choke up social, behavioral, and mental health activities for our people," said Villagomez.

On the other hand, they are going ahead with All Souls Day, with precautionary measures such as entry point sign-up sheets, temperature taking, adhering to the three W's of wearing a mask, social distancing, and sanitizing of hands since there are no washing stations at the cemetery.

When going around trick-or-treating, Villagomez stated that the key is parental guidance. He urges parents not to leave their kids unattended and to make sure they bring their kids at any site with supervision.

MAN

From Page 1

According to a Department of Public Safety statement yesterday, the 56-year-old male driver of the car died last Tuesday at around 2pm while confined at the Commonwealth Health Center. The DPS statement did not disclose the name of the victim, as is standard procedure when the victim's next-of-kin has yet to be notified.

This brings to three the total number of people who have died in crashes at this specific intersection.

According to Dr. Dore Shafransky, who met with DPS investigators assigned to the traffic fatality case, the non-local male died due to blunt force trauma to the chest from the crash. A separate Facebook post claims that the victim was a Filipino male.

The crash occurred on Sunday, Oct. 25, 2020, at about 8:24pm at the Chalan Monsignor Guerrero and Chalan Tun Antonio Apa intersection streetlight on As Terlaje Hill. It was learned from the police that the victim's vehicle, a blue 4-door sedan, had slammed into the concrete base of the traffic signal light post. The victim's car sustained extensive damage on the front.

First responders at the scene were not able to get a response or pulse from the car driver. He was immediately extracted from the vehicle and medics tried to revive the victim via chest compressions while he was being rushed to the hospital. CHC Emergency Room staff managed to revive the driver before transferring him to the Intensive Care Unit where he was listed in critical condition.

The driver's death marks the CNMI's first traffic fatality for the year 2020.

In 2019, the CNMI saw two fatal car collisions, with the most controversial one along the Shell gas station in Puerto Rico that ended in the death of Sergio Apostol, 67. Apostol lingered in the Intensive Care Unit of the Commonwealth Health Center for over two weeks before succumbing to his injuries.

SPIKE

From Page 1

of Pandemic Unemployment Assistance applications and weekly claims certifications that do not meet the filing requirements or eligibility for PUA benefits.

Also, Finance Secretary David Atalig denied speculations that PUA funds have run out, saying they are actually awaiting more funds from the U.S. Department of Labor.

In a statement yesterday, DOL said it is investigating a number of fraudulent PUA filings where the claimant's employment was not affected as a direct result of COVID-19; the claimant is not "able and available" to work; the claimant is not a U.S. citizen, non-national citizen, or qualified alien; the claimant quit their job or refused to work in order to continue to claim PUA benefits; and the claimant has returned to the workforce and earning "pre-pandemic" or customary wages—yet continues to file weekly certifications or under report income.

In an interview with Atalig, he stated that the CNMI DOL had asked the U.S. Department of Labor for over $240 million that was expected to last through December. However, U.S. DOL only gave the CNMI 40% of the $240 million upfront. So far, the department has issued approximately $140 million of that, Atalig said.

He said that they asked USDOL for the additional funds but, before that happens, they will need to provide financial reports to U.S. DOL so that they know that the CNMI-DOL is allocating the funds according to the rules of the PUA and Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation.

"We went ahead and processed recipient checks…in anticipation of the drawdown, which should be any day now. ...Once that is done, those checks will be released by the Department of Labor," said Atalig. "We've done our part, we just wait for U.S. Labor to give us the rest of the funding. We anticipate that very soon and hopefully, we will get those checks out to the community."

As for alleged bounced PUA checks, Atalig stated that this is just plain rumor without any basis, adding that the CNMI Department of Finance won't release checks if there are no funds.

"We'd rather hold checks or not even print them if there are no funds available," said Atalig, adding that he is dispelling all other speculations going around about bounced checks.

Atalig disclosed that they are ready to print 3,000 more checks to Commonwealth recipients of PUA. The batch that they've worked on and cleared covers Sept. 22 as the latest pay date.

Last Oct. 20, CNMI-DOL has distributed up to $136 million worth of PUA and FPUC on all three islands, according to Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente. Benavente said that Saipan's PUA distribution totaled over $108 million while the FPUC totaled over $16 million. On Rota, the PUA amount totaled $5.7 million and FPUC amounted to $2.3 million, while Tinian's PUA totaled $2.4 million and FPUC totaled $2.5 million, she said.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

FINANCE

From Page 1

back to direct deposits in releasing Pandemic Unemployment Assistance money as the process is quicker.

"There's a lot of checking and verification when we do paper checks," said Atalig during Friday's radio news briefing.

Atalig was set to have a meeting with Bank of Guam officials last Monday morning to resolve issues in reverting back to direct deposits so they can ensure that recipients will get their PUA funds quickly.

As of press time yesterday, *Saipan Tribune* was awaiting Atalig's update about his meeting with the bank.

Atalig said that batches of PUA checks that they have already printed are now at the Department of Labor and are being reviewed.

He said his team at Finance is also working with Labor as well to speed up the process. "We are working out these details," he said, referring to his talks with the bank in reverting to direct deposits.

He said if there was any issues that were corrected, and then wasn't corrected in the Geo Solutions system, those people were converted to paper checks.

The secretary explained that the reason why they transferred or moved people from direct deposits to paper check is that they are guided by the rules of the National Treasury and banking laws that once there are three errors on any ACH (Automated Clearing House) wire transfer to any account, they will suspend their ability to transfer.

"So we've been working with the Bank of Guam, trying to correct these issues so that we don't get suspended," he said.

Atalig said suspension just for the PUA suspended the government's ability to wire transfer transact through ACH. "So to minimize that suspension and those issues, these are the reasons why we were converting people to paper checks to ensure that unless the [Labor's software vendor] Geo Solutions correct the proper accounts and proper coding, then we can revert them back to direct deposits," he said.

Atalig said he couldn't take the risk of freezing up his ability to do ACH transfers for other vendor payments and non-PUA related matters, including the government payroll, so he had to take those measures.

DPS

From Page 1

diligently to provide safety for the community, to work to end domestic violence and sexual assault, and to be a "bridge of light" for victims and survivors in the CNMI.

The 2020 BOLA recipient, Rios, has been serving as an officer at DPS for over five years, with the last three years in the Special Victims Unit in which she works as an investigator for domestic violence and sexual assault cases.

Rios received two nominations. According to one of her nominators, Rios' demonstrates an exemplary work ethic and quickly developed skills as an investigator. The two nominators also recognized her dedication to helping victims and survivors in a way that is trauma-informed and empowerment-focused, from accompanying them to court dates or sexual assault exams, to working with agencies to find them other services they need, including counseling and health care.

"She is not working just to work," said one of Rios' BOLA nominators who noted her willingness to report to work outside her scheduled hours to help victims and survivors gain a "sense of safety and security."

This strong sense of compassion and attention to detail as an investigator has recently led to Rios playing a crucial part in determining that the abuser in a particular domestic violence case had also been sexually abusing children in the household. Rios then investigated further and found additional victims who were children outside the household, making an impact on the case and the community. The abuser was recently convicted and sentenced to 30 years in prison.

"Uniqueness might be an understatement to describe all the commitment she shows through her work," one nominator wrote when asked if there was anything unique about Rios' work in anti-domestic violence and sexual assault movement in the CNMI.

"We feel honored to be able to recognize people like Rose Taman Rios with the Bridge of Light Award," said NMCADSV board chair Reina C. Camacho. "Thank you so much for sharing your talents, skills and compassion to help victims and survivors."

"It is inspiring to hear how much of a positive difference one individual like Rose can make in our community and for the movement to end violence in the CNMI," said Camacho. "We hope this award shows we understand and appreciate the weight and importance of those contributions."

Camacho also thanked the Tan Siu Lin Foundation for their continued sponsorship of this award and the Salt & Barber Art Studio for donating a gift certificate to the Bridge of Light Award. As the recipient, Rios will also be receiving the opportunity to attend a retreat or a training courtesy of NMCADSV.

Rios was presented the Bridge of Light Award and prizes from the Tan Siu Lin Foundation and Salt & Barber Art Studio at a ceremony held at DPS headquarters.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

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DESK FAN
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LAWRY'S
SEASONED SALT 4 OZ
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KRAFT
REAL MAYO 30 OZ
SALE PRICE $4.99

TROPICANA
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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Tel: (670) 664-2371 | Fax: (670) 664-2408 | Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

RFQ21-GOV-003
CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lieutenant Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Public Assistance (PA) Office, (collectively, "Commonwealth") are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified contractors for the Supply of Materials, Labor & Equipment for the Repairs/Renovation and/or New Construction of Public Facilities as a result of Typhoon Mangkut and Yutu (FEMA DR-4396-MP and FEMA DR-4404-MP) for the islands of Saipan and Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, currently in effect, and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) §70-30-3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the CNMI.

The project package and scope of work will be available on Thursday, October 15, 2020 at the Governor's Public Assistance Office, MH I Building Marina Heights Business Park, Saipan. **A MANDATORY Pre-Proposal meeting is scheduled on Thursday, November 5, 2020, at 10:00am at the Governor's Conference Room, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP**. Questions regarding the Request for Proposals must be submitted in writing to Mr. Patrick Guerrero, Public Assistance Officer, facsimile to (670) 664-2417 or email pguerrero@pa.gov.mp no later than 4 p.m., ChST, November 6, 2020.

The total proposal length shall not exceed 15 pages in length. Note, a firm that submits a proposal as a prime contractor cannot submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, as a subcontractor, a company may be included in multiple proposals by different contractors. Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1. Qualifications & Experience in Construction including Firm's Profile	30%
2. Work load and resources to accomplish work	30%
3. Past performance with the CNMI Government on similar projects	15%
4. Project and/or Management Approach	15%
5. Visual examples of previous works	10%

Performance time for completion of the Repair/Renovation and/or New Construction will be dependent on the type of project. Liquidated damages will be assessed and shall be the greater of (i) Two Hundred Dollars (US$200.00), or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by the number of calendar days of the contract time, the contract time and contract price being determined at the time of the assessment of liquidated damages for each and every day beyond the established completion date.

Discussions shall be conducted with the top Five (5) ranked firms. The Public Assistance Office may elect to retain all of the top 5 firms. The successful proposers will be subjected to a responsibility and responsiveness determination in compliance with Section 70-30.3-245 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Depending on the number of projects, the PA Office will request each firm to submit a price quotation for these projects, and selection will be based on the lowest cost.

Proposals must be sealed and marked **RFQ21-GOV-003, Construction Services** For proposers within the CNMI, one (1) original and four (4) copies of the proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement Services located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan no later than 10:00 a.m. ChST, November 16, 2020. Proposers located outside the CNMI shall obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of intent form that is provided in this RFQ. Notices of intent to propose must be received by the Director of Procurement Services no later than 10:00 a.m., ChST, November 16, 2020 and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to a.magofna@dof.gov.mp. Note that failure to submit this Notice of Intent Form will be cause for rejection of proposal (This only applies for proposers located outside of the CNMI). For proposers located outside the CNMI, one (1) original and four (4) copies of the sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than, November 16, 2020, and must be received by the Director of Procurement Services no later than November 25, 2020. Failure to submit the required number of copies of the proposal may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interests of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

Virginia C. Villagomez
Governor's Authorized Representative

Francisco C. Aguon, Acting Director
CNMI Procurement Services

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-19-028 Revision No.2

REPLACEMENT OF SADOG TASI WWTP CLARIFER

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Replacement of Sadog Tasi WTTP Clarifier in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The intent of the contract is for the Contractor to provide all labor, equipment, supplies and materials necessary to complete the scope of work which consists of; installation of a new circular clarifier mechanism and effluent launder box, construction of a sloped concrete floor, and other miscellaneous features. The work shall include; the dewatering and cleaning of aeration basin #3 and the clarifier, routing process flow and maintaining conditions during the construction period, and returning process flow from the aeration basin to the clarifier. The work shall be completed with minimal disruption to the daily operation of the Sadog Tasi Waste Water Treatment Plant. CUC requires the Project to be completed in **365 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set. If you have purchased this IFB before you do not have to repurchase but you would need to register with our office to receive a package.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **October 29, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-19-028, Replacement of the Sadog Tasi Clarifier Revision No. 2" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) November 17, 2020,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on November 5, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Westen Knudsen, P.E, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer and to CUC P&S, Senior Administrative Technician, Christie L. Sablan at christie.sablan@cucugov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

New COTA operation hours

The Commonwealth Office of Transport Authority has implemented new hours of operation effective Oct. 22, 2020.

■ **Monday to Friday**: 6:30am to 10pm

First passengers pick up will begin at 6:30am; last passenger pick up will end at 10pm.

■ **Saturday, Sunday and holidays:** 6:30am to 8pm

First passengers pick up will begin at 6:30am; last passenger pick up will end at 8pm.

For reservations, call COTA's One Call/One Click Transportation Information Resource Center two days in advance at (670)664-2690. ***(PR)***

Man-o-war advisory out

MANGILAO, Guam—The Department of Agriculture's Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources Fisheries reminds the community that Indo-Pacific man-o-wars are most commonly seen in Guam during the months of November through February. They are usually around 1-2 inches long, clear blue in color, and may have tentacles reaching 6 feet or more in length.

If you are stung, remove any clinging tentacles with a stick or other hard object then flush the area with large amounts of salt water. If a person has a severe reaction, immediate medical care should be sought.

If Indo-Pacific man-o-wars are seen, notify the Department of Agriculture. Call 735-0289/81/94, or email fisheries@doag.guam.gov. Indicate if it is jellyfish or man-o-wars (the blue bubble). ***(PR)***

Free webinars on federal contracting

The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center is offering free live webinars for November. Webinars run from 10am to 11:30am and will be conducted via Zoom. Links to the live webinar and the webinar evaluation will be emailed to all registered attendees 15 minutes before the start of the webinar.

■ **Oct. 29 – Procurement Integrated Enterprise Environment** – Do you have a DOD contract and need to get paid? The Guam PTAC will explain DOD invoicing procedures using the Wide-Area Workflow module in the Procurement Integrated Enterprise Environment system.

■ **Nov. 5 – Applying for a DUNS Number & Registering in SAM** – To sell your product or service to the federal government, you need to get a DUNS number and register in SAM. These registrations pose unique challenges to Guam/CNMI based businesses. Tips and solutions for these challenges will be discussed.

■ **Nov. 12 – Federal Contract Opportunities** – Beta.sam.gov is the portal for Federal Contract Opportunities. The Guam PTAC will show you how to setup an account and how to use the search filters to ensure you do not miss any opportunities.

■ **Nov. 19 – Marketing to the Federal Government** – The government buys products and services differently than the private sector. The Guam PTAC will discuss marketing strategies, essential documents, and how to get your company on "the list".

■ **Nov. 25 – How to Get Women Owned Small Business Certified** – WOSB is now an official SBA certification program. We will discuss the new certification process as well as supporting document requirements.

Register on our website, http://guamptac.com/news-and-events.php. ***(PR)***

4.7-magnitude earthquake on Pagan

At 4:48pm on Oct. 26, 2020, a report of a 4.7-magnitude earthquake occurred in the Pagan region of the Northern Mariana Islands. Currently, there are no tsunami warnings or advisories issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 670-237-8000. ***(PR)***

4.6-magnitude earthquake near Guam

At 10:52pm on Oct. 26, 2020, a report of a 4.6-magnitude earthquake occurred 23 miles west of Hagatna, Guam. Currently, there are no tsunami warnings or advisories issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 670-237-8000. ***(PR)***

CHamoru commission meeting set

The *Kumisión i Fino' CHamoru yan i Fina'nå'guen i Historia yan i Lina'la' i Taotao Tåno'* (Commission on CHamoru Language and the Teaching of the History and Culture of the Indigenous People of Guam) will hold its first November monthly virtual meeting on Nov. 5, 2020, Thursday, from 12:30pm to 3:30pm on a Zoom link. Call Kumisión secretary Roland Blas for Zoom link Information, special accommodations, and agenda at 480-4047 (rolandblas1973@gmail.com). ***(PR)***

Citizen-centric reports due on Oct. 30

This is to remind all reporting agencies that the Citizen-Centric Report is due on Oct. 30, 2020. Forward all reports to mail@opacnmi.com. Failure to file will result in a penalty of $50 per day for first time offenses and $100 per day for second or subsequent offenses until the violation is cured.

An electronic copy of the report shall be submitted to the Office of the Public Auditor and the presiding officers of the Legislature. Additionally, the report shall be posted on the website of the entity, the Office of the Governor, the Office of the Public Auditor, and the CNMI Legislature.

For more information, visit the OPA website at http://opacnmi.com or contact OPA at (670) 322-6481/2. ***(PR)***

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: DPW/SWMD21-RFP-002

SUBMISSION DATE: December 4, 2020 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Scope of Services for Removal, Packaging, Containment and Shipping of Hazardous Waste Materials Collected at the Lower Base Transfer Station"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL Conference is scheduled on **November 17, 2020 AT 9:00 A.M. LOCAL TIME** AT THE Solid Waste Transfer Station Conference Room Lower Base.

QUESTIONS MUST BE MADE IN WRITING TO Blas T. Mafnas, Acting Director of Solid Waste Management Division **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS November 24, 2020.** THESE QUESTIONS WILL BE ANSWERED WITHIN THREE (3) BUSINESS DAYS AND WILL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROPOSERS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ PETER P. CAMACHO
ACTING SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR,
DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

Special Feature

Saipan Lions Clubs: *We Serve*

Saipan Lions, which is part of the 1.4 million Lions across the globe, has signed on to a five-year agreement with the Public Private Partnership of the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers to support an initiative that focuses on destination enhancement in the CNMI.

Al Cabael, the Lions Club International District 204 Region II chair, said that when the opportunity to become part of the PPP was presented to them, there was no question that their group will be on board with the campaign. The association chose to have improvement projects at the Sugar Dock Beach Park.

"The motto of the Lions is 'We Serve.' Our services focus on five global causes—diabetes, environment, hunger, vision, and childhood cancer. It's just fitting that we adopted Sugar Dock Beach Park because of one of the causes we support—the protection of our environment. There's a need to improve the beach park, not only to address environment concerns but as well as the health, safety, and welfare of the people visiting it," Cabael said.

Early this month, all seven Saipan Lions groups—Saipan Fil-Am Lions Club, Saipan Unity Lions Club, Saipan Marianas Lions Club, Saipan Alliance Lions Club, Saipan Centennial Lions Club, Saipan Natibu Lions Club, and Saipan Pacific Lions Club—plus Leo (youth) members did a cleanup at the Sugar Dock Beach, collecting 11,980 lbs of trash through the support of Triple J 5 Star, the Saipan Mayor's Office, and Happy Market.

"There will be more cleanup drives at the Sugar Dock Beach Park as a perpetual service to the community," Cabael said.

Next month, Saipan Lions Clubs will be trimming the trees around the beach park as falling coconuts and fronds could cause accidents.

The clubs' master plan for the Sugar Dock Beach Park includes creating a shoreline vehicle traffic diversion and installing two shower stations, a central park bathroom, and a permanent pavilion that would replace the *pala-palas*. The makeshift pavilions are at the northern end of the park near the dock and have undergone repeated repair work due to the series of typhoons that hit the islands in the last three years.

There's more work to be done, according to Cabael, but if all will chip in even just a little, the load will get easier and more can be accomplished.

"Everyone has a role to play in maintaining the beauty of the islands that we and our visitors can enjoy, not only today but also in the future. Together we can," Cabael said.

Editor's Note: *The Governor's Council of Economic Advisers' Public Private Partnership initiative has drawn widespread support from the community. Various activities have been conducted and projects have been launched to rally behind the destination enhancement campaign. This section will provide insights on how PPP supporters are committed to the program.*

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS
TOGETHER, WE CAN
Public Private Partnerships

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The policy of separating families was a tragic mistake

It is hard to believe that anyone could have thought that separating children from their parents at the border wouldn't lead to a tragedy.

Yet, the Trump administration ignored warnings that nothing good could come from this policy, and now, after much chaos, the deported parents of 545 children, including about 60 under the age of 5, still have not been found.

That's a clinical way of saying that parents and children may never again see each other, and that U.S. immigration policy has effectively broken apart families. Former first lady Laura Bush called it "cruel" and "immoral," and others called it child abuse and torture.

Begun unofficially in 2017 as a pilot program in El Paso, Texas, to deter families from entering the country illegally at the U.S.-Mexico border, this zero tolerance policy quickly became the most toxic aspect of the administration's strategy to curb illegal immigration. The policy called for charging parents with immigration crimes, which would then lead to separating them from their children (who would be sent to shelters).

The policy of separating families became even more tragic when the administration failed to enact an adequate process to reunite them. Neither the Department of Health and Human Services nor Immigration and Customs Enforcement kept effective records. Only after court orders required disclosure did the nation learn that over 5,500 families had been separated.

The administration now says that while most of the children have been reunited with their families, some children have been moved out of shelters and into the care of relatives, family friends or foster families. In other words, the policy of forced family separation policy predictably produced a cruelty that may never be set right.

During Thursday's debate, we found it depressing that President Donald Trump showed no regret for this failed policy and falsely claimed that the children were brought to the United States by smugglers, cartels, gangs and "lots of bad people." While smugglers are a reality on the border, the truth is that many parents arrived with their children and his policy created trauma for thousands of families.

It is important that this nation secure its borders. However, security can and must be achieved without Machiavellian strategies that rip children from parents. The separation policy has ended; its impact is a great stain on this nation.

America has long needed to reform its immigration system to address those who are here and those who wish to be here. The nation has failed repeatedly to even address the easiest and least controversial part—the granting of legal status to the young adults whose parents illegally brought them to this country as children.

Words cannot adequately express how excruciating and shameful the separation policy had been. Our toxic immigration politics continue to erode the decency, common sense and respect needed to forthrightly deal with those who seek this nation for a better life.

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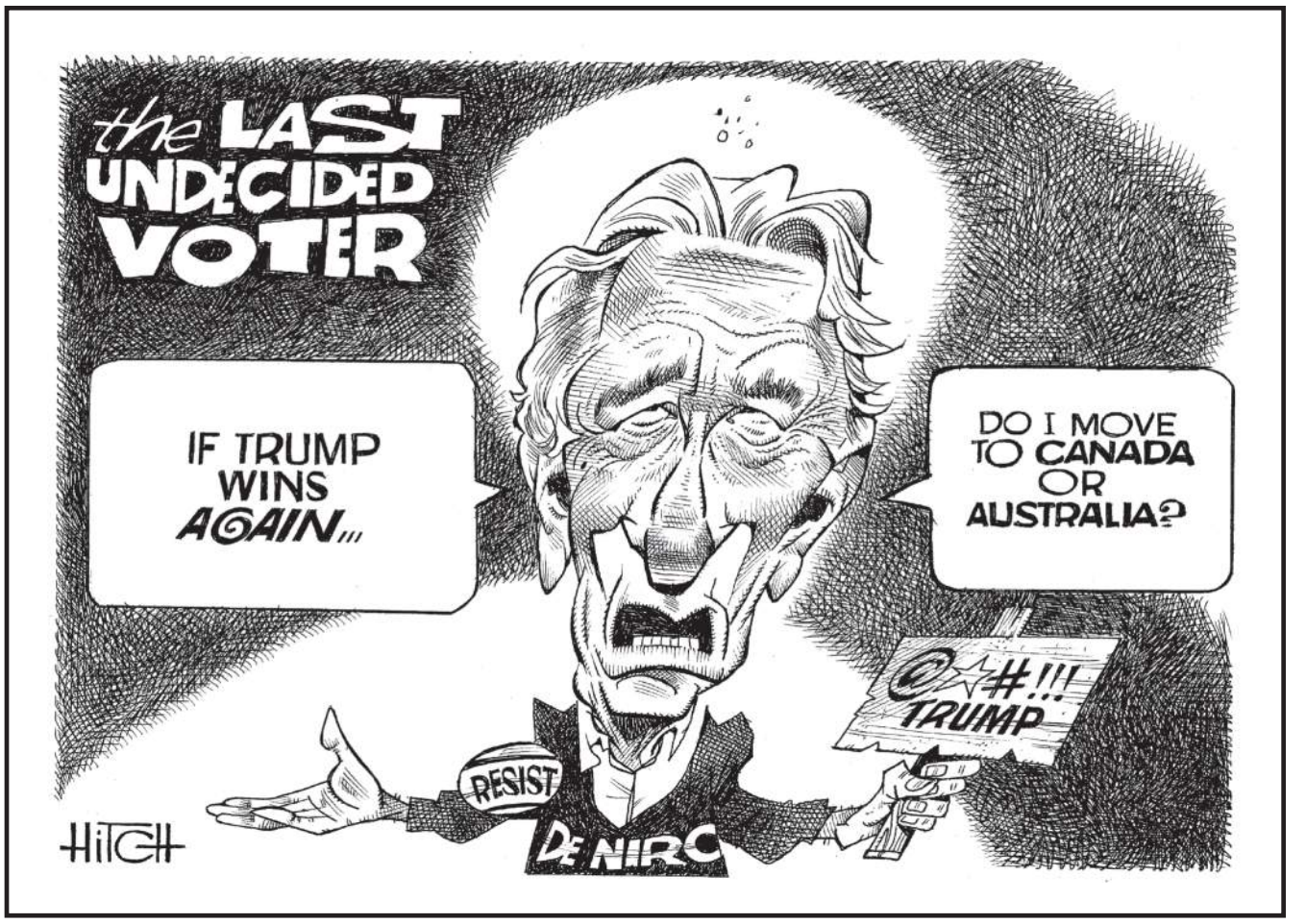


Report to the People: Part II

Editor's Note: This is being published in two parts due to its length.

First of two parts

By CHRISTINE-MARIE SABLAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Christine-Marie Sablan is a member of the CNMI House of Representatives of the 21st Legislature, representing Precinct 2.

In the first part of this Report to the People, I highlighted the legislative activities I have been involved in during this term in the 21st House of Representatives. Part I describes bills I have worked on and supported, bills I have opposed, committee responsibilities including oversight, and a look ahead at legislative priorities in the remainder of this term and into the next.

Part II of this report continues with an overview of our office's constituent services, operations, and outreach programs.

Constituent services

Our office responds daily to constituent inquiries and manages casework for individuals needing assistance in navigating government agencies and programs. Over the past two years we have fielded hundreds of inquiries and requests for help on issues ranging from federal unemployment assistance to unpaid wages, unfair furloughs, retirement pensions, COVID-19 protocols, emergency food and rental assistance, CUC billing problems, health care coverage, stimulus checks, tax refunds, workers compensation, worksite safety, immigration matters, Medicaid and food stamp applications, issues with public lands, pedestrian safety concerns, and nuisance complaints regarding stray animals, illegal burning, illegal dumping, and zoning violations.

To assist constituents in resolving their issues, and depending on the matter, our office has reached out to the Saipan Mayor's Office, Zoning Office, Department of Finance, Department of Commerce, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. including the Bureau of Environmental Health and Women, Infants, and Children, Nutrition Assistance Program, Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Department of Public Works, Northern Marianas Housing Corp., CNMI Medicaid Office, CNMI Department of Labor, U.S. Department of Labor, U.S. Customs and Border Patrol, and the U.S. Delegate's Office, among others.

Sometimes we obtain updates for constituents on the status of their pending applications, disputes, or appeals. Other times we make referrals to social service agencies and nonprofit organizations for constituents in need, particularly those impacted by disaster, austerity cuts, unemployment, food insecurity, and eviction. We also follow up with government departments and agencies on requests for the delivery of public services or public works projects, or the enforcement of CNMI laws and regulations.

When the first cases of COVID-19 reached the Northern Marianas and much of the government including the Legislature shut down, our office began teleworking almost immediately. We attended online and teleconference briefings with CHCC, COVID-19 task force, Public School System, and others, and we shared information on social media. We addressed numerous inquiries from constituents about the government's COVID -19 response and the ever-changing and sometimes confusing executive orders and protocols. We communicated with individuals in quarantine and their families, residents trying to return to the Northern Marianas, students and parents wondering how and when they would safely resume their education or avail of school meals again, and residents concerned about curfew hours, closed parks, congested business establishments and panic buying. We also reached out to social service organizations to learn about their COVID -19 protocols for delivering relief to people in need of food or rental assistance, and we shared that information and made referrals for constituents as well.

Office operations

I do not take a legislative allowance, nor do I lease a vehicle or have a government-paid cell phone. The only government travel I have done during this term has been to Rota and Tinian for public hearings and sessions. These brief trips have included airfare, hotel, and ground transportation costs that were paid out of our office operational account. I paid for my own meals and incidentals and did not take a per diem.

Over the past two years, our office has employed one full-time office manager, one full-time outreach/constituent services coordinator, and two interns. We have also contracted the part-time services of independent legal counsel, and shared a part-time community worker with another office. Late last year, we contracted a professional development trainer to conduct a workshop in customer service and office management at the Legislature. The training was open to all staff from individual member offices and from the Legislative Bureau, and was well-attended.

At this time, our office has one regular full-time employee: office manager Ms. Tokie Mojica, who oversees administrative responsibilities as well as constituent services/casework.

To be continued tomorrow

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Press covers for Biden

By RICH LOWRY
King Features Synd., Inc.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

Joe Biden is the most cosseted presidential candidate in memory.

He's run a minimalist campaign that's avoided the press as much as possible, while the press hasn't been braying for more access and answers, but eager to avoid anything that could be discomfiting to the campaign.

Never before has the media been so openly fearful of asking or reporting something that might hurt a presidential candidate. Even the lowest common denominator of news—simply being interesting—has been tossed aside. Boring and uneventful is the new newsworthy.

The tendency reached a new level in the media's handling of New York Post reports on emails obtained from a laptop that Hunter Biden reportedly left off at a Delaware computer repair shop.

Here was a story with enough mysteries and plotlines to keep a couple of newsrooms busy. Are the emails, putting Hunter Biden's sleazy overseas business dealings in a more sinister light, legitimate? Did Hunter really take the laptop to the shop and forget about it? And, more importantly, what do the emails say about what Joe Biden knows or should have known about Hunter's work that depended so heavily on proximity to the vice president?

Instead, the press has been uninterested at best and hostile at worst. It's the opposite of a feeding frenzy. The media has deployed its bomb disposal unit for fear that a potentially explosive story might detonate.

What Biden has to say about the emails is inherently of interest. Yet, he wasn't asked about it at his recent ABC News town hall. Never mind that his response would have made headlines afterward and the clip would have been shown in every TV segment about the debate.

Subsequently, CBS reporter Bo Erickson betrayed his profession by asking Biden his response to the Post story on a tarmac. He got slammed by Biden, "I have no response, it's another smear campaign, right up your alley, those are the questions you always ask."

No one rallied to Erickson's defense. Instead, respectable figures on the center-left shamed Erickson for having asked a politician an unwelcome question—which, the day before yesterday, would have been considered Journalism 101.

Much of the press has pronounced the Post story debunked without doing any work to debunk it and believes as a matter of faith that it is Russian disinformation. Rather, the focus has been reporting on how the Post reported the story, as the press works to discredit media outlets that don't toe the correct political line—you know, just like Woodward and Bernstein did during Watergate.

This tendency toward "anti-reporting" has long characterized Biden coverage. The New York Times took 19 days to cover Tara Reade's sexual assault allegation against him, not wanting to burden its readers with information about a newsworthy charge too quickly.

Any Biden misstep is quickly explained away. The press doesn't seem to mind that the campaign is prone to declare "lids"—or the end of the candidate's public day—early and often.

Usually, the media loves candidates who make good copy, who provide drama and color. In its hatred and fear of President Donald Trump, though, it has thrown in its lot with the dull and meandering Joe Biden, bringing to the effort all the complacency and pointed incuriosity it can muster.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

'The difference in our lives will depend on the candidates you vote for'

I write this letter voluntarily and willingly in my personal capacity. Years ago, when I turned 18, I listened to my grandmother's advice on who to vote for. It was no secret that Nang was a diehard Republican. I remember some pocket meetings at her house growing up. Years later, I too now believe in the same principles of the Republican Party as she did. She always made sure that everyone voted and we all had to report to her to show her our inked thumbs as evidence of casting our ballot. She instilled the importance of casting your ballot. The choice and the difference in our lives will all depend on the type of candidates you vote for.

I believe in this administration and the leadership of the governor and the lieutenant governor. I believe in their work, one, which has manifested in a GDP growth rate unseen anywhere else. In 2015, the GDP was pegged at $16,691, which rose to $22,247 a year later, and in 2017, rose to $28,305, a 27.23% increase. The progress will continue under a Republican leadership. COVID-19 has caused financial strains not only on our economy but around the world and the lessons we all learned has definitely changed everyone's way of life. Thankfully, during every hardship, the people have been assisted by Uncle Sam, such as receiving FEMA assistance after typhoons Soldelor and Yutu, the economic stimulus package, and now pandemic unemployment assistance and federal unemployment compensation.

The Torres-Palacios administration, in collaboration with the Legislature, has identified funds to pay out land compensation claims. DPL has managed to pay out a total of $2,429,962.00 in land claim payments since 2017. The efforts to continue to pay out land claims continues and will continue, especially if we get a Republican majority in the Legislature again. These claims date back to the '90s.

For many there is a misconception of the land acquisition and land compensation process. The Department of Public Works is the first agency that initiates the land acquisition if the taking of a private land is for a public purpose, such as but not limited to, roadway, ponding basin, some wetlands, etc. DPL is the last agency in satisfying the claim. We simply ensure that everything required under the law is addressed, such as an appraisal at the time of taking, appropriate land documentation, appropriate documents from the court, etc. It became easy to settle these claims when the Legislature appropriated the funds for land compensation payments (for transparency, full details of who were paid is listed in our DPL annual report on our website).

So when it is time to vote, please vote Republican.

Marianne Concepcion-Teregeyo
via email

Voting for hope for the future

Staffler

When I think about why i choose to run, i also think about why people will vote for me and all Democrats this election. I have learned through my house-to-house visits these last few months that the reason voters will vote for me, and all Democrats this election is because they have hope for the future.

H - Voters want improved access to health care. They often share during house-to-house that the amount of money we invest toward medical referral would do wonders if we instead invested it to improve the services at our hospital. This would also in turn reduce the need for some medical referral in the long run, because people wouldn't have to leave their homes and families for treatment. Investing in our hospital would also add to the Medicaid requirements that help keep the system afloat today. Legislatively, the Democrats recognize and commit to the urgency of prioritizing funding for the betterment and health of our people for the short- and long-term. This is why voters will vote for Democrats this election.

O - Voters want more opportunities and access. They want opportunities to be engaged, opportunities to learn, opportunities to access skilled training, which would lead to opportunities of improved earning potential. Democrats will support educational systems, from PSS to NMC to NMTI, because we know how critical it is to the overall economy and personal growth of our people. Democrats will support legislation to establish apprenticeship programs critical to the next steps of NMTI sustainability and viability. Democrats will provide opportunities and access through community gardens, where people can engage in partnerships and learn to grow their own food, improving the community's access to sustainable living practices, which also affects their long-term health. Democrats will support local small businesses through legislation to encourage startups that will help our local economy grow. These are the reasons why voters will vote for Democrats this election.

P - Voters want their leaders to practice partnership and prudence. Voters want to return to "Ina-Fámauleg yan Ina-Goflié." Working together, we explore and light up all there is, to see it clearly, so we can do what's best for all. What I hear from voters is how much they and the people around them want change. They say they support change with how leaders communicate and operate. Voters will choose Democrats because they pledge to support legislation that will establish rules that require all members to maintain records and publish quarterly reports of their expenditures. Democrats will regularly report to the people and welcome their feedback. And, most importantly, Democrats will ensure that public funds are only spent on public purposes. These are the reasons why voters will vote for democrats this election.

E - Voters want their leaders to prioritize education and exhibit ethics. Every election, leaders tout education as their priority. The difference is that voters will vote for me because they have witnessed that I have been a champion for education for the last 18 years. I am a lifelong learner and currently hold two degrees: a Bachelors of Liberal Arts and a Masters in Educational Leadership. I continue to take courses to edify myself on topics that interest me. I am a 2010 graduate of the CNMI summer pre-law program, a 2019 Pacific Century Fellow and an avid participant and volunteer in NMI Humanities Council programs. Voters will vote for me because my ethical record stands for itself. I have been an administrator for the last 10 years and I have never had an EEO case. My record of fairness and reputation of "service before self" are why voters will vote for me this election. Ask any of my former students or parents, they will tell you that I practice the following: "What you do for one you must do for all. All means all."

Voters will vote for Democrats this November because we are offering a diverse choice of quality candidates who possess a wide variety of degrees and professional experiences. On the Democratic slate, we offer candidates who are former educators, military veterans, retirees, small business owners, accountants, money market finance experts, civil service and government service employees too.

Most of all, CNMI voters will choose Democrats this November because ethics is central to the pledge this team has made to voters of the CNMI. Ethics is central to the first part, all the way to last part of our pledge: "We believe that public office is a public trust. We hold ourselves and our colleagues to the highest ethical standards and will abide faithfully by the oath of office and the CNMI Government Ethics code."

Check out our Democratic pledge to the people of the CNMI online at: www.nmidems.org or http://bit.ly/NMIDemsPledgeFB (on Facebook)

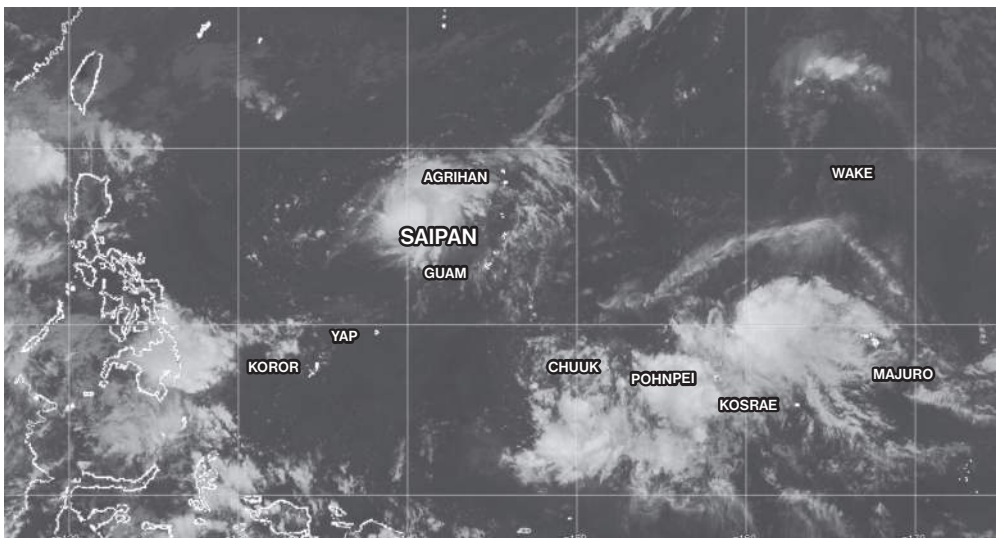
Leila Staffler

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
88º 78º	88º 78º	87º 77º	87º 77º	87º 77º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:03 AM, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows 99W centered out west of the Marianas near 16N141E, moving out to the northwest. High clouds are still streaming across the region from the northwest, but radar shows only isolated showers, diminishing in coverage. Meanwhile, invest 90W is seen across Chuuk and Pohnpei with scattered showers and thunderstorms but little organization. Combined seas are generally 4 to 5 feet at the buoys.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	88° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85° / 81°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:12 AM	5:49 PM
Friday	6:12 AM	5:48 PM
Saturday	6:12 AM	5:48 PM
Sunday	6:13 AM	5:47 PM
Monday	6:13 AM	5:47 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	4:08 AM	4:32 PM
Friday	-	4:54 AM	5:07 PM
Saturday	-	5:40 AM	5:42 PM
Sunday	-	6:27 AM	6:19 PM
Monday	-	7:16 AM	6:59 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	63° / 55°
Beijing	Cloudy	55° / 46°
Hong Kong	Showers	88° / 75°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	85° / 75°
London	Partly Cloudy	66° / 57°
Los Angeles	Sunny	82° / 58°
Manila	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	66° / 45°
Miami	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°
New York	Cloudy	67° / 62°
Osaka	Rain	70° / 64°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	70° / 52°
Busan	Mostly Cloudy	72° / 63°
Rome	Sunny	77° / 55°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	87° / 67°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	64° / 50°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	70° / 48°
Tokyo	Showers	66° / 61°
Washington, DC	Cloudy	67° / 61°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:40 AM	LOW TIDE	0.45
6:26 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.53
12:26 PM	LOW TIDE	0.47
6:31 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.75

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- ❏ Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- ❏ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ❏ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ❏ Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2020

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	7:30am	8:10am	1, 4
UA117	7:50am	8:30am	6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	7:30am	9:10pm	1 via Guam

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

UA183	7:25pm	9:10pm	1 via Guam
UA183	9:05pm	10:50pm	5 via Guam

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	5:50am	6:31am	1, 4
UA174	6:15am	6:56am	6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	11:45pm	6:56am+1	5 via Guam

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25pm	4:25am+1	1 via Guam
UA184	11:45pm	5:33am+1	5 via Guam

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 8, 2020

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Mon/Wed/Fri

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Mon/Wed/Fri

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1212	18:00	18:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

18 SIS students recognized as AP Scholars for 2020

Eighteen students of Saipan International School have earned AP Scholar Awards in recognition of their exceptional achievements on AP Exams during the 2019-20 school year.

The AP Program offers several AP Scholar Awards to recognize high school students who have demonstrated college-level achievement through AP courses and exams. SIS offers 15 AP courses and exams to its students. Students have the choice between the following courses as well as recently adding Physics: Algebra-based, Physics C: Mechanics, United States History, and Chinese Language and Culture.

"This is a very large number of offerings for a school of our size. It is a tribute to our commitment of providing an environment where all students can reach their full potential. We believe that offering a wide range of opportunities allows students to thrive and that includes sports, competitive activities like Model United Nations and Math-Court, service and volunteer opportunities, and, of course, allowing students to attempt courses that will earn the university credit while still in high school,' said Whitney Altizer, SIS college counselor. "These achievements are a testament to the hard work and dedication of not only the students, who prepared for the exams during the global pandemic, but also to the AP teachers who worked diligently to prepare the students remotely."

The College Board recognizes several levels of achievement based on students' performance on AP Exams. "The 18 students at SIS earning recognition as scholars represents an amazing 46% of the students in 11th and 12th grades," said Dr. Ron Snyder, the SIS headmaster and added that he was extremely proud of the schools AP exam pass rate this year, with 82% of students taking an AP exam getting a qualifying score of 3 or higher. This exceeded both the CNMI and the national average and demonstrates a 25 point increase in pass rates over the last five years.

Snyder

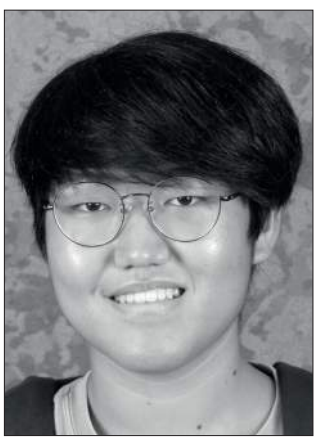
E. No

Guintu

Gaeul Kim

Guy Yeo Kim

Qian


Park

J. Sablan

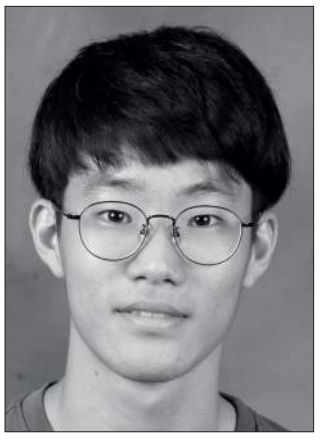
J. P. Sablan

Song

Miyawaki

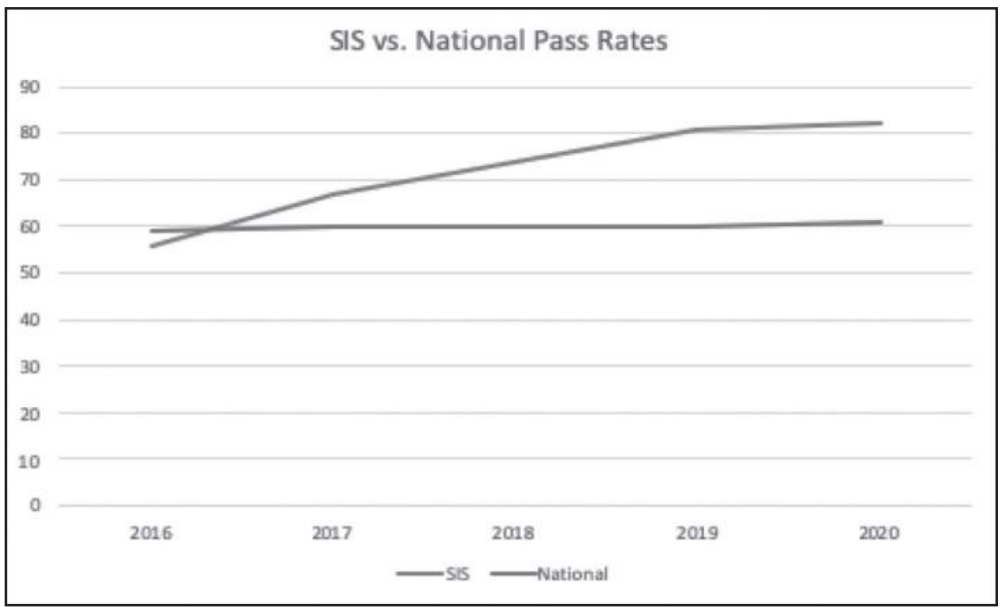
Lai

Liske-Clark


Lee

Osnach

Goodwin



Nam

Y. No

AP Scholar award levels

Nine SIS students earned the National AP Scholar with Distinction award by earning an average score or at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams. The average score for SIS students in this category was 4.11. The students are Frederic Guintu, Guy Yeon Kim, Samantha Liske-Clark, Malika Miyawaki, Eunseo No, Yeonkyoung No, Hyeonjae Park, Jason Sablan and Anika Snyder.

Sally Lai qualified for the AP Scholar with Honor award by earning an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.

Eight students qualified for the AP Scholar Award by completing three or more AP Exams with scores of 3 or higher. The AP Scholars are Steven Goodwin, Gaeul Kim, Won Woo Nam, Sofia Osnach, Henry Qian, Jon Paul Sablan and Ken Song.

SIS also saw its first AP Capstone recipients. Sangyoon Lee, Malika Miyawaki, Eunseo No, Yeonkyoung No, and Anika Snyder were awarded the first AP Capstone Diplomas in Micronesia by earning 3 or higher on four AP exams and successfully passing both the AP Seminar and AP Research courses. Samantha Liske-Clark and Jon Paul Sablan earned AP Capstone Certificate distinctions for earning a 3 or higher for AP Seminar and AP Research.

The Co-Valedictorians of SIS from the class of 2020 earned two additional AP awards. Malika Miyawaki was named an AP National Scholar by receiving an average score of 4 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 4 or higher on eight or more of their exams. Less than 2% of AP test takers worldwide are awarded this distinction. Anika Snyder was awarded the AP International Diploma. The AP International Diploma is a globally recognized certificate awarded to students who display exceptional achievement across a variety of disciplines. AP International Diploma recipients must score a 3 or higher on 5 or more AP exams. Two must be from AP World Languages or English, one exam must offer a global perspective, one must be from math or the sciences and one additional exam of their choice, not from World Languages or English.

SIS is extremely proud of all of its students and offers special congratulations to its 2020 AP Scholars. ***(PR)***

Business

August Supermarket soft-opens in Garapan

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

One business that is definitely bucking the crisis brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic are grocery stores.

So it's no wonder a new grocery store has suddenly cropped up on Saipan as August Supermarket opened last week along Kadena Di Amor Street at the back of Wild Bill's in Garapan.

Owner Yuemei Chen said August Supermarket had a soft-opening last week and will have its grand opening this Friday, Oct. 30.

To attract customers, Chen said select items are on sale like rice, cold cuts, eggs, chicken, spare ribs and other meats, and beer at August Supermarket, which she named after her son, Augustine. Chen originally hails from Fujian, China and has called the CNMI home for the past 30 years.

Aside from food items, August Supermarket also has a large kitchen houseware section and blankets and pillows of all sizes, makes, and brands. Also impressive is the new store's inventory of Power Wheels, which is a brand of battery-powered ride-on toy cars for kids ages 12 months to 7 years old.

The store was also obviously designed for the post-COVID-19 world as the aisles between shelves are very wide that lends to easy maneuvering of grocery carts. The ceiling is also pretty high so the store doesn't convey the claustrophobic feel usually associated to small grocery stores on Saipan.

MARK RABAGO

August Supermarket had a soft-opening last week and will have its grand opening this Friday, Oct. 30.

August Supermarket was also obviously designed for the post-COVID-19 world as the aisles between shelves are very wide that lends to easy maneuvering of grocery carts.

As far as following the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force's guidelines, Chen said all customers and staff are required to wear face marks, social distancing is strictly enforced, and hand sanitizers are available at the store's entrance.

August Supermarket is located at the old YCO Hardware Building in Garapan and is open everyday from 6am to 11pm.

T-Mobile offers up yet another TV streaming service

(AP)—Yet another service provider is jumping into the TV streaming wars. This time it's T-Mobile and its TVision service with live news, entertainment and sports channels, starting at $10 a month.

T-Mobile says it's aiming to offer a simpler and and cheaper service for people dissatisfied with cable. But it's entering a crowded field. And most similar streaming services have found it difficult to sustain low prices over time.

TVision will offer three branches of its service. TVision Live will have live news, entertainment and sports channels at three tiers priced at $40, $50 and $60, depending on how many sports channels you want. The $40 option offers around 30 channels including ABC, NBC, Fox, CNN, Fox News, ESPN, and Fox Sports Networks.

Then there's TVision Vibe, which is $10 a month and includes about 30 channels from AMC, Discovery and Viacom—but no sports. And TVision Channels, which lets you sign up for individual channel streaming services, starting with just three: Starz, Showtime and Epix.

A slew of new streaming services started to challenge traditional TV providers and dominant streaming services like Netflix over the past year, including Disney Plus, Apple TV Plus, HBO Max and Comcast's Peacock service. CBS recently rebranded its CBS All Access service as Paramount Plus, relaunching in 2021.

Some have already bitten the dust. Quibi, a video platform designed for people who were out and about to watch on their phones in "quick bites," launched in April and said last week it would shutter after failing to find its audience. T-Mobile had struck a deal with Quibi to offer the service free to subscribers on unlimited wireless family plans for one year.

Services offering more traditional cable TV-like bundles include Sling TV, FuboTV, YouTube TV, and others, were initially heralded as the future of TV as cable cord-cutting ramped up.

Nation

Biden vows to unify and save the country

WARM SPRINGS, Ga. (AP)—Joe Biden traveled Tuesday to the hot springs town where Franklin Delano Roosevelt coped with polio to declare the U.S. is not too politically diseased to overcome its health and economic crises, pledging to be the unifying force who can "restore our soul and save this country."

Biden

The Democratic presidential nominee offered his closing argument with Election Day just one week away while attempting to go on the political offensive in Georgia, which hasn't backed a Democrat for the White House since 1992. He promised to be a president for all Americans regardless of party, even as he said that "anger and suspicion is growing and our wounds are getting deeper."

"Has the heart of this nation turned to stone? I don't think so," Biden said. "I refuse to believe it."

While Biden worked to expand the electoral map in the South, President Donald Trump focused on the Democrats' "blue wall" states that he flipped in 2016 — Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania — and maintained a far busier travel schedule taking him to much more of the country.

At a cold, rain-soaked rally in the Michigan capital of Lansing, Trump said Biden supported the North American Free Trade Agreement and China's entry into the World Trade Organization, both of which he said hurt the auto industry and other manufacturing in the state.

» Trump hits Midwest

"This election is a matter of economic survival for Michigan," the president said, arguing that the state's economy was strong before the coronavirus pandemic hit. "Look what I've done."

Trump also cheered Senate candidate John James — who may ultimately have a better chance of winning the state than the president — while attacking Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer for moving aggressively to shut down much of the state's economy to slow the virus' spread. He even seemed to cast doubt on federal authorities breaking up what they said was a plot to kidnap her, which Whitmer has argued Trump's "violent rhetoric" helped spark.

"It was our people that helped her out with her problem. And we'll have to see if it's a problem. Right?" Trump said. "People are entitled to say 'maybe it was a problem. Maybe it wasn't.'"

Biden, even as he predicted the country could rise above politics, went after his election rival, accusing Trump anew of bungling the federal response to the pandemic that has seen new cases surging in many areas, and failing to manage the economic fallout or combat institutional racism and police brutality that have sparked widespread demonstrations.

"The tragic truth of our time is that COVID has left a deep and lasting wound in this country," Biden said, scoffing at Trump's pronouncements that the nation is turning a corner on the virus. He charged that the president has "shrugged. He's swaggered. And he's surrendered."

Venturing into Georgia was a sign of confidence by the Biden team, which is trying to stretch the electoral map and open up more paths to the needed 270 Electoral College votes. The former vice president plans to travel to Iowa, which Trump took by 10 points in 2016, later in the week. And his running mate, California Sen. Kamala Harris, is hitting Arizona and deep red Texas.

Besides Lansing, Trump traveled to West Salem, Wisconsin. First lady Melania Trump was on the road, too, making her first solo campaign trip of the year in Pennsylvania.

Philadelphia victim's family sought ambulance, not police

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—The family of a Black man killed by Philadelphia police officers in a shooting caught on video had called for an ambulance to get him help with a mental health crisis, not for police intervention, their lawyer said Tuesday.

Police said Walter Wallace Jr., 27, was wielding a knife and ignored orders to drop the weapon before officers fired shots Monday afternoon. But his parents said Tuesday night that officers knew their son was in a mental health crisis because they had been to the family's house three times on Monday.

Catherine Wallace, his mother, said one of the times, "they stood there and laughed at us."

The Wallace family's attorney, Shaka Johnson, said the man's wife, Dominique Wallace, is pregnant and is scheduled to have labor induced Wednesday. Two of Wallace's nine children briefly spoke at a news conference late Tuesday, along with Walter Wallace's mother and father.

"When you come to a scene where somebody is in a mental crisis, and the only tool you have to deal with it is a gun... where are the proper tools for the job?" Johnson said, arguing that Philadelphia police officers are not properly trained to handle mental health crises. Johnson said Wallace's brother had called 911 to request medical assistance and an ambulance.

About 500 people had gathered at a West Philadelphia park Tuesday night and began marching through the neighborhood, chanting and demanding the names of the officers who opened fire. There were sporadic reports of arrests in other areas of the city Tuesday night around 9 p.m., as well as video of people streaming into stores and stealing goods as they left.

Philadelphia officials had anticipated a second night of unrest Tuesday, after Philadelphia police arrested more than 90 people during protests and unrest that began Monday and spread into the early morning hours of Tuesday, sometimes turning into violent confrontations with police. Police were stationing extra officers on business corridors in west Philadelphia and elsewhere in preparation.

Asia

Taiwan: New arms sales will boost ability to defend

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Taiwan said Tuesday that recently proposed purchases of U.S. missiles and other arms systems will boost the island's ability to credibly defend itself amid rising threats from China.

The comments from defense ministry spokesperson Shih Shun-wen came a day after China said it would exact unspecified retaliation against companies that make the weapons systems, including Lockheed Martin Corp., Raytheon Technologies Corp. and Boeing Co.'s defense division, the lead contractor on a $2.37 billion sale of Harpoon missile systems to Taiwan.

Facing a potential Chinese foe with overwhelming superiority in missiles, soldiers, ships and planes, Taiwan has struggled to assure its own people and its key ally, the U.S., that it is capable of and willing to see to its own defense. The sides split during a civil war in 1949 and China considers Taiwan its own territory, to be brought under its control by force if necessary.

"The purchase of these weapons will enhance Taiwan's credible combat capabilities and asymmetric combat capabilities," Shih told reporters at a briefing, using a term for countering a much stronger foe with precision weapons and advanced tactics. "This will also enhance our overall combat capabilities to contribute to maintaining peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait."

In Beijing, foreign ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin on Tuesday again accused the U.S. of violating its commitments to China while bolstering the confidence of those such as the ruling Democratic Progressive Party of President Tsai Ing-wen who favor the island's independence from China.

Washington should "revoke the arms sale plan to Taiwan so as to avoid further damage to China-U.S. relations and peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait," Wang told reporters. "China will take legitimate and necessary measures to resolutely defend national sovereignty and security interests."

The Trump administration on Monday notified Congress of plans for the sale of the Harpoon system, whose missiles are capable of striking ships and land targets. Boeing says the missile uses GPS-aided inertial navigation and delivers a 500-pound blast warhead. It can target coastal defense sites, surface-to-air missile sites, exposed aircraft, ships in port, and port and industrial facilities.

That followed another proposed sale announced Oct. 21 of $1.8 billion worth of weaponry, including missile and rocket systems, and upgraded equipment for Taiwan's F-16 jet fighters.

Taiwan has long been an irritant in U.S.-China relations. Washington has no formal relations with the island's democratically elected government but is its main ally. U.S. law requires the government to ensure Taiwan can defend itself. In recent years, weapons sales to the island have increased in quantity and quality, as China builds the world's second most powerful military dedicated largely to defeating Taiwan and achieving its goal of annexation.

Stepped-up patrols by Chinese warplanes this year have put Taiwan's forces under greater strain, increasing the importance of developing new weapons systems or buying them from abroad.

Pompeo, Esper drive US anti-China message in India visit

NEW DELHI (AP)—U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Defense chief Mark Esper stepped up the Trump administration's anti-China message in India on Tuesday, exactly a week ahead of America's presidential election.

With President Donald Trump in a tight race for a second term against former Vice President Joe Biden, Pompeo and Esper sought to play on Indian suspicions about China to shore up a regional front against increasing Chinese assertiveness in the Indo-Pacific region. They also lauded joint cooperation in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic.

In talks with their Indian counterparts, Pompeo and Esper signed an agreement expanding military satellite information sharing and highlighted strategic cooperation between Washington and New Delhi with an eye toward countering China. The two men paid tribute to Indian troops killed in defense of their country, including 20 who died earlier this year in an incident with China.

"The United States will stand with the people of India as they confront threats to their freedom and sovereignty." Pompeo said, referring pointedly to ones posed by the Chinese Communist Party,

"Our leaders and our citizens see with increasing clarity that the CCP is no friend to democracy, the rule of law, transparency, nor to freedom of navigation—the foundation of a free and open and prosperous Indo-Pacific," he said.

In a meeting with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Pompeo and Esper discussed the coronavirus pandemic, security and defense cooperation, and "shared interests in a free and open Indo-Pacific," said U.S. principal deputy spokesperson Cale Brown.

Esper earlier said the two countries' focus must now "be on institutionalizing and regularizing our cooperation to meet the challenges of the day and uphold the principles of a free and open Indo-Pacific well into the future." That, he said, is particularly important "in light of increasing aggression and destabilizing actions by China."

Just hours before the meetings began, the Trump administration notified Congress of plans for a $2.37 billion sale of Harpoon missile systems to Taiwan—the second major arms sale in two weeks to the island that Beijing regards as a renegade province. China reacted to the first sale by announcing sanctions on U.S. defense contractors.

Shortly before the Harpoon sale was announced, Pompeo met late Monday with Indian Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar to laud "the strong partnership between the United States and India," declaring it to be "critical to the security and prosperity of both countries, the Indo-Pacific region, and the world," the State Department said in a statement.

Regardless of domestic U.S. election considerations, it is a critical time in the U.S.-India relationship as China looms large over the Indo-Pacific.

World

4 dead, 15 rescued in English Channel migrant boat sinking

PARIS (AP)—At least four people, including two young children, died Tuesday when a boat carrying at least 19 migrants capsized off France while trying to cross the English Channel to Britain, French authorities said.

Fifteen migrants have been saved so far and rescue and search operations were still under way, according to the regional administration for the Nord region. It said in a statement that the dead were a 5-year-old and an 8-year-old, an adult woman and an adult man, and stressed that the toll so far is provisional pending further searches in the area.

Aid groups decried the deaths and called for more government help for struggling migrants, while British and French authorities expressed their condolences.

Such crossings have become increasingly common in recent years, despite political uproar in Britain and stepped-up police efforts to stop them, but deaths are rare. French authorities reported four migrant deaths in total in small boats crossing the Channel in 2019.

On Tuesday, a sailboat alerted authorities to a migrant boat in distress off the coast of Dunkirk, and France mobilized five vessels and a Belgian helicopter nearby to help with the rescue, according to the regional French maritime agency. It had said earlier that 18 people were rescued and were receiving treatment in hospitals in Calais and Dunkirk. The reason for the different numbers of rescued migrants was not explained.

The Dunkirk prosecutor launched an investigation into the cause of the sinking, which occurred on a day when both British and French weather authorities had warned of gusty winds in the area.

AP

A French rescue helicopter lands close to a rescue vessel in Dunkirk, northern France, Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2020 during a search operation after four migrants, including a 5-year-old and 8-year-old child died Tuesday when their boat capsized while they and other migrants tried to cross the English Channel to Britain, French authorities said.

Despite joint police efforts on both sides of the Channel, migrants have long used northern France as a launching point to sneak into Britain, and the issue has long strained relations between the neighbors.

Britain's Press Association news agency calculates that more than 7,400 migrants have crossed the Channel to the U.K. by boat so far this year, up from about 1,800 in all of 2019. French maritime officials have rescued hundreds more in routine operations in the Channel, known for high winds, strong currents and heavy maritime traffic.

New protests loom as Europeans tire of virus restrictions

MILAN (AP)—Protesters set trash bins afire and police responded with hydrant sprays in downtown Rome Tuesday night, part of a day of public outpouring of anger against virus-fighting measures like evening shutdowns for restaurants and bars and the closures of gyms and theaters—a sign of growing discontent across Europe with renewed coronavirus restrictions.

Pedestrians and motorists returning home from work in Rome were taken by surprise when protesters, some of them hooded and members of an extreme-right political group, set afire to trash bins in Piazza del Popolo, overturned parked motor scooters and mopeds and hurled smoke bombs, state TV reported. Police vans unleashed torrents of water to disperse them.

It was a fifth straight night of violent protest in Italy, following recent local overnight curfews in metropolises including Naples and Rome.

After protests Monday night turned violent in the financial capital of Milan, police arrested 28 people. And in Italy's industrial northern city of Turin, at least 11 were arrested, including two who smashed the window of a Gucci boutique and stripped a mannequin of its lemon yellow trousers.

All of Europe is grappling with how to halt a fall resurgence of the virus before its hospitals become overwhelmed again.

Nightly curfews have been implemented in French cities. Schools must close at 6 p.m. Schools have been closed in Northern Ireland and the Czech Republic. German officials have ordered de-facto lockdowns in some areas near the Austrian border and new mask-wearing requirements are popping up weekly across the continent, including a nationwide requirement in Russia.

"We would all like to live like before, but there are moments where you have to make tough decisions," French Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin said Tuesday as the government held emergency meetings on the pandemic.

Yet in this new round of restrictions, governments are finding a less compliant public, even as the continent has seen over 250,000 confirmed deaths in the pandemic and last week recorded 46% of the world's new infections, according to the World Health Organization.

Over the weekend, police used pepper spray against protesters angry over new virus restrictions in Poland. Spanish doctors staged their first national walkout in 25 years on Tuesday to protest poor working conditions.

In Britain, anger and frustration at the government's uneven handling of the pandemic has erupted into a political crisis over the issue of hungry children.

Environment

Are you going to the beach today?

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

» Check out the beach flags and stay safe

BEACH ADVISORY
해안 경고판 | 推奨事項 | 海滩公告
This Recreational Water meets all CNMI water quality standards.
ENJOY THE WATER.
This Recreational Water does NOT meet CNMI water quality standards and indicators suggest that there may be a threat to human health.
It is advised to: NOT FISH OR SWIM IN THE COASTAL WATER IN FRONT OF THIS SIGN OR WITHIN A 300 FT RADIUS.
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Division of Environmental Quality

IVA MAURIN

Going swimming or fishing? Check out the beach signs put up by the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality to protect public health, as they sample beaches and coastal areas in the CNMI for bacteria concentration. Green flag on the beach means it is safe for swimming and fishing, whereas a red flag on the beach cautions us for it may not be safe to do such activities.

Are you heading to the beach today? Make sure to check out the beach signs to see if it is safe for you to swim or go fishing.

Have you ever found yourself going to the beach, swimming your heart out, only to have rashes and get all itchy later? That is what the beach flags are for, as an advisory for all of us that the water quality on a particular site has gone over standard levels that makes it unsafe to swim or fish in that area, at least for 48 hours.

We only have to watch out for two kinds of flags: A green flag is for when it is safe for us to swim or fish, and a red flag is the opposite, when the water quality sample from a beach site exceeds advisory levels, meaning, it may be unsafe to swim or fish within 300 feet of the posted signs.

Just this month alone, so many sites got "red flagged," including the West Harbor Marina, Talakhaya Beach, Garapan Fishing Dock, Garapan Beach, Bird Island, Smiling Cove Marina, Chalan Laulau Beach, Hidden Beach, Old Man by the Sea, and the Grotto (despite being closed to the public).

The beach signs are there to help protect us. The Division of Environmental Quality of the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality regularly samples the beaches and coastal areas in the CNMI for bacteria concentration, and then advises us, through the beach flags, to make sure we are all safe.

BECQ samples 85 locations throughout the whole CNMI, including 12 beach sites on Rota, 10 on Tinian, 11 on Managaha, and then the rest, on Saipan.

Where are the beach flags?

Currently, there are 12 sites on Saipan that has the physical beach flag signs, but weekly beach flag advisories, covering all the other sites, are posted on social media, in the news, and on the DEQ website (http://www.deq.gov.mp).

Physical beach advisory signs are placed at the most frequented, highest-used beach areas on island—Grotto, Tanapag Meeting Hall, DPW Channel Bridge (Lower Base), Micro Beach, Grandvrio Hotel, Garapan Fishing Base, Garapan Beach (13 Fishermen's Memorial), Civic Center Beach, Sugar Dock, CK District No. 2 Drain (Aquarius Beach), and Kanoa Resort.

All these 12 beaches get sampled weekly. DEQ samples the west side of Saipan and the Grotto weekly, with the rest of the others sites on an eight-week rotational sampling schedule—where every eight weeks, sites are shifted from monthly to weekly.

Unfortunately, BECQ currently does not have the staff nor the laboratory capacity to sample every site. Despite that, they would resample more than once if they see very high bacteria levels on a site. Resampling is done 48 hours after the first sample, to see if another red flag should be issued at that site.

Protecting public health

A red flag happens when samples taken from the beach are analyzed and are found to have exceeded CNMI water quality standards, which are based on U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recommended criteria for bacteria.

Samples taken at the beach are analyzed at the BECQ laboratory to see if they exceed standards. DEQ has a criteria adopted for enterococci, which is a fecal indicator bacteria, and sampling results are compared to the said criteria to determine if standards have been exceeded.

If standards are exceeded, BECQ issues an advisory for the public not to swim nor fish in that area within 300 feet of the sampling location, for 48 hours.

Fecal indicators could be from any animal, as enterococci is usually present in animal feces. However, DEQ clarifies that there are some small amounts of enterococci present naturally in the environment.

There are organisms in the water, thousands of different types of bacteria in the water, naturally occurring enterococci that is not necessarily linked to the presence of feces. When enterococci occurs naturally, rarely does it cause red flags, as usually they are at levels below the set criteria levels.

BECQ water quality surveillance program manager Larry Maurin explains that the bureau assesses bacteria levels according to the designated uses under the Clean Water Act, one of which is recreation. When the criteria is developed, it's the level on what would make people sick, in reference to skin contact.

There's a red flag! What can we do?

"General best practices at the beach is don't go swimming after heavy rainfall, because the runoff is what causes most of the pollution. If you see the water is brown in color, or there's been heavy rainfall, you may not want to swim there and go fishing until the waters clear. It's pretty much common sense. If the water smells, or it's not clear, you should consider not going there."

The most common things that happen when people come in contact with water polluted by bacteria are stomach illnesses, ear, nose, and eye infections, skin infections, rashes, itchiness, and even respiratory problems.

"Just be aware of the environment. We don't close beaches, we're just trying to inform people so they can keep their families safe and healthy."

Everyone is also encouraged to use good practices and work with BECQ and other agencies to try to improve water quality in the CNMI.

"We're not just sampling the water and getting the results, we're trying to work to address the causes of the water quality impairments and improve them. We encourage the public to get involved in that process, and be educated about it, engage with us on these issues, and work with or talk to their legislators."

BEACH ADVISORY
해안 경고판 | 推奨事項 | 海滩公告
This Recreational Water meets all CNMI water quality standards.
ENJOY THE WATER.
This Recreational Water does NOT meet CNMI water quality standards and indicators suggest that there may be a threat to human health.
It is advised to: NOT FISH OR SWIM IN THE COASTAL WATER IN FRONT OF THIS SIGN OR WITHIN A 300 FT RADIUS.
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Division of Environmental Quality

Get updated on beach advisory by signing up on the email list via waterqualityreport@becq.gov.mp or by contacting BECQ's Water Quality Surveillance/Nonpoint Source branch at 664-853.

Life & Style

AP
Gwen Stefani, left, and Blake Shelton arrive at the 62nd annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles on Jan. 26, 2020.

UK judge to rule Nov. 2 on Depp's libel suit against tabloid

LONDON (AP)—A British judge will rule next week on whether Johnny Depp was libelled by a tabloid newspaper that branded him a wife-beater—an accusation his lawyer called a "reputation-destroying, career-ending" false allegation.

Britain's judicial office announced Tuesday that judge Andrew Nicol will deliver his verdict in writing on Nov. 2, without a hearing at the High Court, where Depp and his ex-wife Amber Heard had a dramatic three-week legal showdown in July.

The case, with its accusations of drug abuse, emotional turmoil and drunken fights, cast a stark light on the private lives of the celebrity couple, who met on the set of 2011 comedy "The Rum Diary" and married in Los Angeles in 2015. They separated the following year and divorced in 2017.

"Pirates of the Caribbean" star Depp sued News Group Newspapers, publisher of The Sun, and the newspaper's executive editor, Dan Wootton, over an April 2018 article that accused him of assaulting Heard.

Over several days in the witness box, Depp, 57, branded he allegations a "hoax" and claimed Heard was the aggressor during their volatile relationship.

"He has never hit a woman in his entire life—period, full stop, nada," Depp's lawyer David Sherborne said in closing arguments.

Heard, 34, testified as the main witness for the defense, saying Depp turned violent under the influence of alcohol and drugs. She alleged 14 separate incidents between 2013 and 2016 in which he hit, slapped and shoved her, pulled her hair and threw bottles at her "like grenades."

"I didn't want to do this, I did not want to expose this totality of what really happened to me," Heard said in court. "I didn't want to talk about everything that happened in our marriage and happened in our relationship."

The Sun's lawyer, Sasha Wass, said in her summing up that there was no doubt Depp "regularly and systematically abused his wife."

But Depp's lawyers accused Heard of fabricating evidence, calling her an unreliable witness and "a compulsive liar."

Whatever way the judge rules, it's unlikely to be the end of the legal drama. Depp is also suing Heard for $50 million in Virginia over a Washington Post story about domestic violence. The trial is due to be held next year.

'Voice' co-stars Blake Shelton, Gwen Stefani engaged

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—"The Voice" co-stars Blake Shelton and Gwen Stefani are engaged and sharing the good news on social media.

Shelton and Stefani posted a picture Tuesday announcing the engagement between the country star and the pop singer. "Hey @gwenstefani thanks for saving my 2020... And the rest of my life.. I love you. I heard a YES!" Shelton wrote.

A representative for Shelton confirmed the couple recently got engaged while in Oklahoma, where Shelton lives.

The two stars met as judges on the singing competition show years ago. After Shelton divorced Miranda Lambert and Stefani divorced her husband Gavin Rossdale in 2015, the two later began dating.

The two have recorded duets together, including "Nobody But You," which just won a CMT Music Award last week.

Stop the music! Chorus of artists tell Trump to tune it down

LOS ANGELES (AP)—From the beloved opening lines of Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah" to the rousing, children's-choir conclusion of the Rolling Stones' "You Can't Always Get What You Want," President Donald Trump's campaign rallies have been filled with classic songs whose authors and their heirs loudly reject him and his politics.

It's become a sub-cycle in the endless campaign cycle. The Trump campaign can hardly play a song without the artist denouncing its use and sending a cease-and-desist letter. Neil Young, John Fogerty, Phil Collins, Panic! At The Disco and the estates of Leonard Cohen, Tom Petty and Prince are just a few of those who have objected.

Campaigns have been turning popular songs into theme songs for more than a century, and American artists have been objecting at least since 1984, when Bruce Springsteen denied the use of "Born in the U.S.A." to the Ronald Reagan reelection campaign.

But this year, the issue has reached an unprecedented saturation point, indicative of a wide cultural divide between the president and his supporters, and overwhelmingly left-leaning musicians, who virtually never make the same demands of Democratic candidates.

"I've been covering this beat for probably 20 years, and this is probably as stark a division I've seen as far as artists not wanting a politician to use their songs," said Billboard contributor Gil Kaufman, who has been covering the convergence of music and politics for the record trade magazine during the campaign. "The choice is so stark for a lot of voters, and it is for musicians too."

Few have objected as adamantly as Young. The fiercely opinionated rock Hall-of-Famer is the rare musician who has gone beyond demands and filed a lawsuit over the repeated use of his songs.

"Imagine what it feels like to hear 'Rockin' in the Free World' after this President speaks, like it is his theme song," Young wrote on his website in July. "I did not write it for that."

That feeling that they've been drafted onto Team Trump clearly fuels many artists' anger.

"Their music is their identity," Kaufman said. "It's important to them to not appear as though they are tacitly endorsing Trump."

Other artists have been more befuddled than angry about the playing of songs whose themes are the exact opposite of the messages Trump is sending.

Fogerty said he was baffled by Trump's use of "Fortunate Son," his 1969 hit with Creedence Clearwater Revival, whose condemnation of privileged children of rich men who did not serve in Vietnam sounds like a tailor-made slam of Trump.

"I find it confusing that the president has chosen to use my song for his political rallies, when in fact it seems like he is probably the fortunate son," Fogerty said in a video on Facebook in September.

He was more fiery after he kept hearing it played.

Grandparents have no idea why they're out in the cold

DEAR ABBY: My brother "Brian" and his wife, "Laurel," have an adult son, "Dick," who dated a girl I'll call "Crystal" for 10 years before they got married. Everyone got along fine, until Crystal gave birth.

After their first child was born, Crystal started withholding visits from my brother and his wife. Crystal and Dick had two more children. The oldest is now 6. The only way Brian and Laurel see their grandchildren is if there's a family reunion, wedding, etc. Crystal allows her parents to see the kids and spend time with them whenever.

Brian and Laurel are flabbergasted by what has happened. They have no idea why all of a sudden after giving birth, their DIL has not allowed them to visit the grandkids, babysit or anything. My brother and his wife are great people. They don't drink to excess or use drugs and would be wonderful grandparents for these children. Would it be appropriate as a family member (aunt) to write a letter to Crystal and, in a kind, nonaccusatory way, explain the hurt this has caused and how much their children are missing out from not being around these two great individuals?

MISSING OUT IN OREGON

DEAR MISSING OUT: While it isn't unheard of for the wife's parents to take precedence over the husband's, Crystal's behavior does appear to be extreme. It also appears the way she's acting is retaliatory, but the people who must get to the bottom of it are your brother and his wife. I don't think there is anything to be gained by involving yourself in this sad mess, because if you do, Crystal and her husband will resent it. Sympathize, but stay out of it.

DEAR ABBY: Five years ago, my daughter, "Angie," and her two children moved in with me after she and her husband separated. I hoped she would get her finances and life together and be able to get a place of her own.

What I didn't realize at the time was that Angie had started a relationship and had fallen in love with a man she met online. Her daughter was very upset about it. Angie was in a custody dispute over her youngest child, and we disagreed more than once about issues concerning the children.

After a couple of years, she moved into her own place. She's still involved with this individual. I haven't met him and have no desire to. She's upset with me because of it. I don't want to see him with her because he has been married several times and is involved with drugs. I realize who Angie is involved with is her business and not mine, but I want nothing to do with him. How can I avoid a rift with her over this?

SOURED IN SOUTH CAROLINA

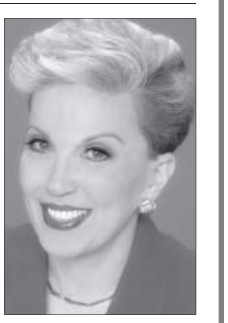
DEAR SOURED: No law says you HAVE to meet this person, and it is your privilege to avoid him if you wish. I'm not sure what your daughter expects from you. Does she want you to entertain him? Common sense would dictate that you do not want anyone who is involved with illegal substances in your home. However, I do think you should agree to meet him once.

If Angie's relationship with you is predicated on the idea that you will welcome this individual into your life with open arms because she has, you will then have to figure out how to navigate this. That she would allow someone like him to interact with her children shows very poor judgment.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

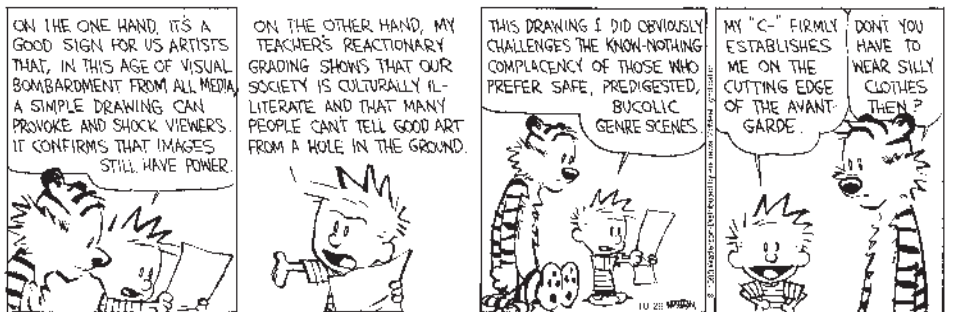


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

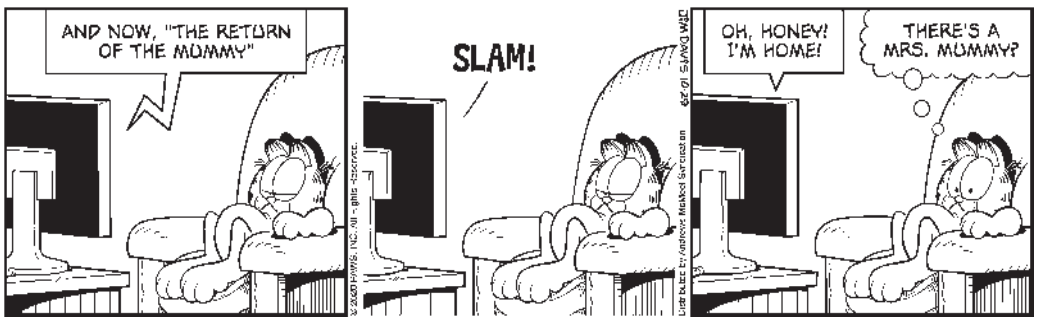
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


ON THE ONE HAND, IT'S A GOOD SIGN FOR US ARTISTS THAT, IN THIS AGE OF VISUAL BOMBARDMENT FROM ALL MEDIA, A SIMPLE DRAWING CAN PROVOKE AND SHOCK VIEWERS. IT CONFIRMS THAT IMAGES STILL HAVE POWER.
ON THE OTHER HAND, MY TEACHER'S REACTIONARY GRADING SHOWS THAT OUR SOCIETY IS CULTURALLY ILLITERATE AND THAT MANY PEOPLE CAN'T TELL GOOD ART FROM A HOLE IN THE GROUND.
THIS DRAWING I DID OBVIOUSLY CHALLENGES THE KNOW-NOTHING COMPLACENCY OF THOSE WHO PREFER SAFE, PREDIGESTED, BUCOLIC GENRE SCENES.
MY "C-" FIRMLY ESTABLISHES ME ON THE CUTTING EDGE OF THE AVANT-GARDE.
DON'T YOU HAVE TO WEAR SILLY CLOTHES THEN?

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

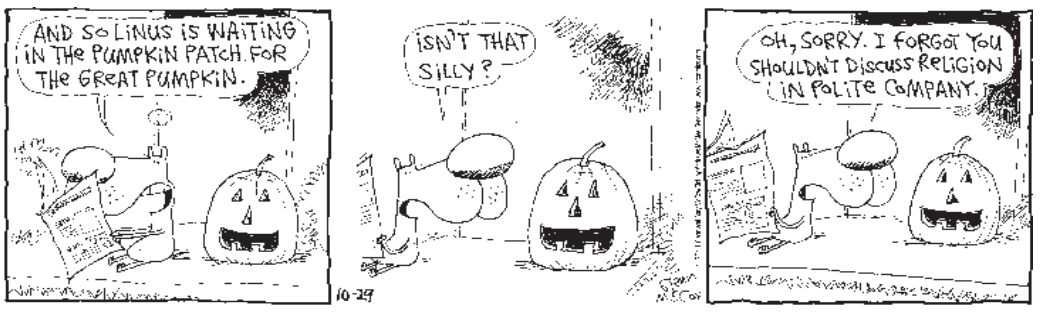


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


AND SO LINUS IS WAITING IN THE PUMPKIN PATCH FOR THE GREAT PUMPKIN.
ISN'T THAT SILLY?
OH, SORRY. I FORGOT YOU SHOULDN'T DISCUSS RELIGION IN POLITE COMPANY.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Web addresses
5 Auction actions
9 Half of CXII
12 Geezer
13 Cruising
14 Football filler
15 "Tomb Raider" heroine
17 Hitter's stat
18 Comes up
19 "Holy cow!"
21 Fashionable
22 Dweebs
24 Guys' dates
27 Physique
28 Autobahn auto
31 Simile center
32 Regret
33 Ms. Thurman
34 Outlying district, briefly
36 Hostel
37 First bed
38 Fun partner
40 The "x" in "2 x 4"
41 El Greco's birthplace
43 Super-enthusiastic
47 Small batteries
48 Celtics legend
51 TGIF part
52 Wheeling's river
53 Europe's neighbor
54 Formerly known as
55 Pinches
56 Frilly

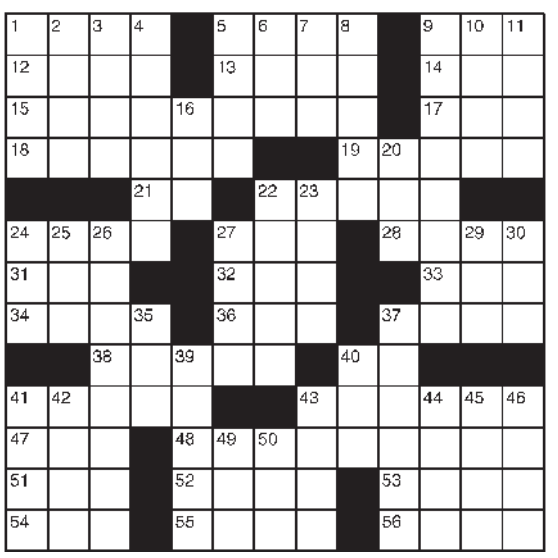
DOWN

1 Bruins' sch.
2 Bellow
3 Actress Singer
4 Equilibrium
5 Taverns
6 Equal (Pref.)
7 Dict. info
8 Nymph pursuer
9 Delphinium
10 Unspoken feeling
11 Eye part
16 100 yrs.
20 Altar affirmative
22 Subjects, usually
23 Paradise
24 Talk on and on
25 Tempe sch.
26 Generosity
27 Party cheese
29 Brit. record label
30 Science room
35 Cudgel
37 Percussion instrument
39 Casaba, e.g.
40 Purchase
41 Abel's brother
42 Assess
43 Experts
44 Galileo's birthplace
45 Rocker Clapton
46 June 6, 1944
49 Sushi fish
50 Wardrobe malfunction

Solution time: 24 mins.

T	A	M	S			I	D	A		F	O	I
E	M	I	-		C	V	S			N	I	T	E
S	O	D	A	J	E	R	K			O	E	-	L
T	R	I	P	O	D		T	U	R	T	-	E	
				S	E	T		C	P	J	S		
M	A	S			Y	E	T		S	N	O	B	S
I	G	O	R			A	B	S		S	O	A	K
C	A	D	E	T			A	A	H		A	N	Y
			A	C	A	D			W	E	B		
D	E	C	I	D	E			D	R	A	G	C	N
A	S	A	P			C	L	J	E	S	O	D	A
S	A	N	E			A	A	S			A	B	I	-
H	I	S	S			-	S	T			L	I	N	E

Yesterday's answer 10-29



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ben Foster, 40; Gabrielle Union, 48; Winona Ryder, 49; Richard Dreyfuss, 73.

Happy Birthday: Persistence will pay off. Open your mind to trends and information that can help you broaden your horizons and lead you down an exciting path. You are overdue for a change that will inspire you to use your knowledge, skills and awareness to create a unique lifestyle that will benefit you as well as those who look up to you. Your numbers are 6, 13, 28, 32, 38, 44, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Avoid discord. Don't waste your time on people and things you cannot change. Look forward, and choose positive outlets for your energy. Align yourself with people who share your beliefs. A partnership requires an adjustment to maintain equality. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Inconsistency will be the enemy. Stick to your plans, and don't stop until you reach your destination. It's up to you to take advantage of opportunities while you stabilize your relationship with the people who support your efforts. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Take control of your life, and focus on being the best you can be. Distance yourself from drama and people who play mind games. Do your own thing. Trust in your skills and wherewithal to reach your goals without outside interference. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Don't take chances. Verify information, and streamline your thoughts to fit the result you are trying to achieve. Be cautious when dealing with sensitive issues; someone will take advantage of you if you get into a dispute. Protect your assets. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Strive for perfection, do your own thing and stay away from people making unrealistic promises. Don't let the changes others initiate put you in harm's way. Use your intelligence to navigate your way to a safer and better future. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Implement the changes you endorse, and keep moving forward. Stop worrying about what others do or think, and show strength and courage in the way you handle adversity. Call the shots, and your search for success will be validated. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Push for what you want. Refuse to let someone pressure you into something that benefits them more than you. A physical adjustment to the way you present yourself to others will show off your unique style. Romance is on the rise. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Live and learn. How you process information and put it to use will make a difference in how your day unfolds. When uncertainty sets in, ask questions and move on quickly. Don't waste precious time; you will fall behind. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Take the opportunity to make a change at home that will make your life easier. Relax, spend time with someone you love, or explore and expand an idea you have. Personal improvements will lift your spirits and encourage romance. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* You'll have to ease into conversations with the people you encounter today. Avoid getting into a disagreement with someone who can influence the outcome of a project. Be sure to keep your distance when out and about. Focus on health and well-being. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Pay closer attention to what others are doing. Distance yourself from anyone who appears to be out of control or demanding. Focus on physical improvements, earning more money and sticking to what works best for you. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Draw information from experts, verify facts and proceed with your plans. A change you encounter will turn out better than anticipated. An innovative idea you present will be well-received. Don't make promises until you are sure you can deliver. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are ambitious, curious and changeable. You are energetic and enthusiastic.

Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

8						
1	2		9			3
		5			2	9
4		3		6		8
	9			4		
6	5		9			2
3	7			6		
5			3		8		6
						5

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/29

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

3	4	8	6	2	9	1	7	5
2	7	5	8	1	3	4	6	9
6	1	9	7	5	4	2	8	3
5	2	6	4	3	7	9	1	8
1	9	3	2	8	6	7	5	4
7	8	4	5	9	1	6	3	2
4	3	2	1	6	5	8	9	7
9	6	7	3	4	8	5	2	1
8	5	1	9	7	2	3	4	6

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

CREED (PERFUME) Solution: 9 letters

M	S	S	I	R	A	P	E	P	I	C	E	A	F	H
I	U	E	N	A	L	Y	E	C	O	R	R	A	K	S
L	T	L	N	G	F	R	T	L	Z	I	R	R	R	I
L	N	R	T	G	W	T	O	I	A	E	O	A	O	T
E	E	A	O	I	L	G	E	F	U	L	S	H	Y	I
S	V	H	N	Y	N	A	Y	R	I	R	S	T	W	R
I	A	C	D	E	A	A	N	A	S	I	F	R	E	B
M	D	S	F	N	M	L	T	D	R	H	E	L	N	I
E	M	U	F	R	E	P	A	I	E	G	A	O	V	G
R	A	R	B	Ⓓ	E	H	D	T	O	E	D	V	I	A
O	R	T	N	A	Ⓤ	S	G	O	N	N	R	E	E	R
L	I	I	N	E	I	Ⓞ	H	I	O	A	A	C	N	R
F	N	C	D	E	E	W	T	L	H	W	S	L	N	A
A	E	B	R	E	H	R	E	V	I	T	E	V	A	D
C	E	V	I	K	I	N	G	R	O	S	A	L	I	E

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Aftershave, Aventus, Bigarrade, British, Ceylan, Charles, Citrus, Cologne, Creed, Dubai, England, Epicea, Erolfa, Erwin, Fresh, Fruity, Green, Herbe, High End, Irish, London, Love, Marine, Mayfair, Millésime, Multinational, New York, Oger, Oud, Paris, Perfume, Rosalie, Royal, Santal, Tailor, Tweed, Vetiver, Vienna, Viking, Wood, Zeste

Yesterday's Answer: Generals

The NEW **Treasury 41** can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

Djokovic closes in on Sampras' record

VIENNA (AP)—Novak Djokovic defeated Filip Krajinovic in the first round at the Erste Bank Open on Tuesday to edge closer to Pete Sampras's all-time record of ending the year as world No. 1 on six occasions.

Top-seeded Djokovic lost four straight games and had to save a set point before beating Krajinovic 7-6 (6), 6-3 in an all-Serbian match, while No. 2 Dominic Thiem nearly squandered a 5-1 lead in his 6-4, 7-5 win over Vitaliy Sachko of Ukraine.

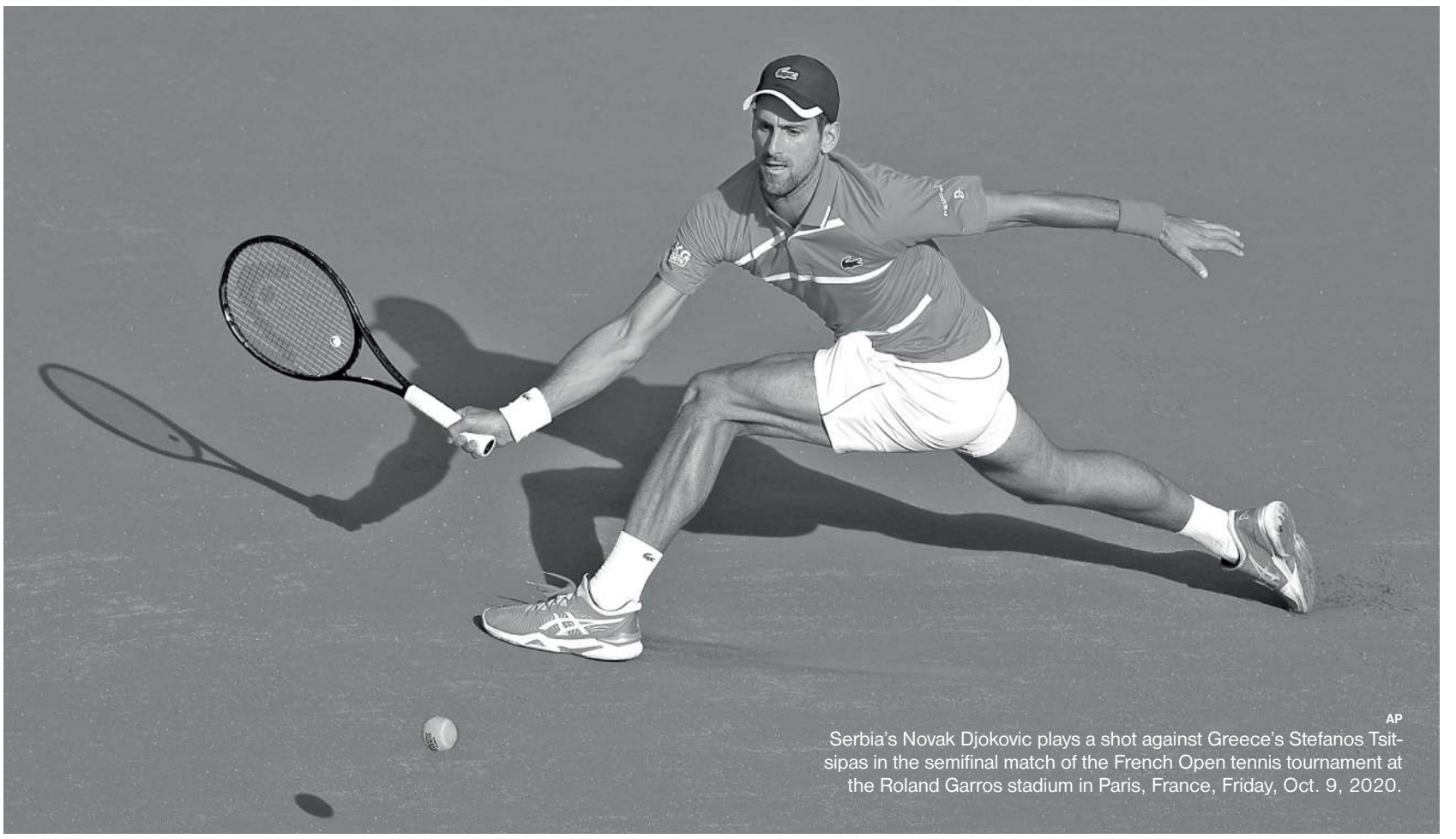
It was Djokovic's first match since losing the French Open final to Rafael Nadal, and his first indoor tournament since the Davis Cup Finals in Madrid in November 2019.

"I hope I have many more gears above today's level. I tried to be positive about my performance, about the game," said Djokovic, who improved to 38-2 for the season.

"It's not the first time that I kind of start a bit slower in the beginning of a tournament and then every day I get kind of a step further in the right direction," he added.

Djokovic had an early break for a 3-1 lead but lost the next four games against his regular hitting partner.

However, Krajinovic failed to close out the set as he scored just one point while serving at 5-4. He later missed a set point at 6-5 in the tiebreaker and netted a smash on the following point.



AP

Serbia's Novak Djokovic plays a shot against Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas in the semifinal match of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, France, Friday, Oct. 9, 2020.

"I know that Filip knows my game very well," Djokovic said. "I trained well the last couple of days, but it is different playing a match. Nerves were kicking in and I wasn't playing well in the first set. He was playing better and I was a bit lucky as one or two points can really shift the momentum of the game."

Djokovic also took a 3-1 lead in the second but this time saved a break point in the fifth game and wrapped up the win when Krajinovic hit a forehand long and dropped serve for a second time in the set.

Djokovic, who won the event in his last appearance here in 2007, meets Borna Coric in the second round.

Thiem faced similar struggles against the 529th-ranked Sachko. The Ukrainian made his ATP tour debut replacing Kei Nishikori, who pulled out with a shoulder injury.

The defending champion quickly went 5-1 up but lost his next two service games before breaking Sachko again at 5-4.

Thiem lost a 4-1 lead in the second set but broke Sachko once again at 6-5 with a powerful backhand passing shot.

"I had problems getting into the match, lost my serve too many times. But in general I am happy, and the last couple of games had the right intensity," Thiem said.

It was the U.S. Open champion's 10th straight win in Austria, after winning both Kitzbuehel and Vienna last year.

Thiem next plays Cristian Garin, who defeated Stan Wawrinka 6-4, 6-7 (9), 6-3. Wawrinka was Djokovic's opponent in the 2007 final.

Grigor Dimitrov, Hubert Hurkacz and Lorenzo Sonego all had straight-set wins, while Dan Evans led 6-3, 4-5 when his opponent, Aljaz Bedene, quit the match with an injury.

After health and safety measures were tightened in Austria last week, 1,000 spectators were allowed in the 9,000-capacity Stadthalle arena.

Wentz playing more like Ol' Gunslinger Favre

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Carson Wentz is playing more like his favorite player this season.

Wentz, who grew up rooting for Brett Favre, has turned into a younger version of the Ol' Gunslinger in his fifth year with the Philadelphia Eagles.

Just like Favre was in his two decades with the Packers, Jets and Vikings, Wentz is supremely confident in his ability to make any throw from anywhere on the field. That can be risky but the reward can be even greater.

Wentz made an exceptional 18-yard TD pass to Boston Scott with 40 seconds left in the game to lift the Eagles to a 22-21 win over the Giants last Thursday. It was the fifth time Wentz has engineered a comeback win in the fourth quarter in the past 11 games.

Earlier in that game, however, Wentz threw his 10th interception of the season into double coverage in the end zone from the New York 20. That was one he needed to throw away.

He also made a cross-body, cross-field pass to Travis Fulgham that every coach tells his quarterback never to make. A defender was there, but the ball hit Fulgham's hands and he dropped it.

Wentz has 10 touchdown passes to go with those picks and he's also run for a career-high five TDs.

The Eagles lead the weak NFC East at 2-4-1.

"That was always the thing with Brett, the reward was definitely greater, but you knew there was going to be some risk involved," said Eagles coach Doug Pederson, who played several seasons with Favre in Green Bay.

"Carson obviously has the ability to do that. He's got the arm strength, the mobility to extend plays with his legs. I would think the one thing that we're seeing with Carson now, the same thing I saw with Brett, is that physical toughness, being able to stand in the pocket, take some hits, bounce up, and do it again. To me, that's kind of some of the similarities there.

"Carson is solid. He's getting better every week. Again, had a great comeback (against the Giants) for us. That's some of the same things that obviously I saw in Brett when I played with him."

Favre was a three-time NFL MVP and won a Super Bowl on his way into the Hall of Fame. He also threw more interceptions than any player in league history.

Wentz hasn't always been reckless with the ball. He threw only seven picks in each of the past three seasons. He finished third in NFL MVP voting in his second year when the Eagles won the Super Bowl with backup Nick Foles after Wentz was injured.

Wentz became the first quarterback in NFL history to throw for 4,000 yards without a wide receiver having 500 yards receiving last year. He also is the only quarterback to throw 20 or more touchdowns and seven or fewer interceptions in three straight seasons. Tom Brady, Drew Brees, Aaron Rodgers and Russell Wilson have done it twice.

Entering this season, Wentz had the second-best interception ratio in league history behind only Rodgers.

"Mistakes are going to happen," Wentz said. "Guys are going to drop passes, I'm going to throw interceptions. (The offensive line) is going to make mistakes up front, too."

All the above have happened quite often this season. The Eagles have been decimated by injuries. They have started 21 different players on offense, including 10 on the offensive line and seven guys who made their first career starts. Wentz's past eight TD passes have been thrown to practice squad alums.

Wentz already has been sacked 28 times, nine fewer than his career high last season. He's taken numerous hits and has even chosen to take on defenders by lowering his shoulder on scrambles and blocking down the field on runs when Jalen Hurts takes the snap and he's lined up as a receiver.

"He's a competitor. He's a hard worker. He loves the game of football," Ravens defensive end Calais Campbell said on the AP Pro Football Podcast, four days after Wentz led the Eagles to 22 points in the fourth quarter of a 30-28 loss to Baltimore. "We were tagging him, we're hitting him early and often. He just kept getting up and making plays. ... He has a lot of fight. You saw a guy who was determined to try to find a way to win a game. And it took everything we had to fight them off and win late."

Despite intense criticism from some fans who wanted the Eagles to keep Foles instead, Wentz has the trust of his teammates.

"He is as talented as the best of them," Eagles safety Rodney McLeod said Wentz. "I believe in (No.) 11."

Nagy sticks with Foles

In Chicago, Bears coach Matt Nagy is sticking with quarterback Nick Foles over Mitchell Trubisky and intends to keep calling plays on offense at least for now.

He made that clear Tuesday, a day after an ugly 24-10 loss to the Rams. The Bears' poor performance at Los Angeles added more fuel to the idea that their sparkling record was more of a mirage than a reflection of how good they are.

But if changes are coming, there won't be one behind center.

"We have a lot of confidence and I have a lot of confidence in Nick right now with where he's at," he said. "Again, this is a process for us to work though, and it's not just one person. It's really not."

The Bears (5-2) fell out of the NFC North lead with their first road loss. And their quarterback had a difficult time with the offensive line getting overwhelmed.

Foles completed 28 of 40 passes for 261 yards without a touchdown. He was sacked four times —twice by former Bears linebacker Leonard Floyd— and threw two interceptions.

Too often, Foles was unable to step into his throws with defenders bearing down on him. But Nagy dismissed the idea of going back to the more mobile Trubisky, who started the first three games before getting benched.

"In regards to a mobile quarterback, I'm not so sure that that's the answer with that, with what we're talking about, with the drop-back of a quarterback and the tackle situation," Nagy said.

The Bears are averaging a league-low 84.1 yards rushing, and rank 29th in total yards per game and 27th in scoring (19.7 points).

Rays manager roasted for pulling Snell in Game 6

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Blake Snell turned away from his manager and yelled an expletive as Kevin Cash headed to the mound. In control all night, the Tampa Bay ace no longer had the ball in his potent left hand.

Soon, the Rays no longer had a grip on the lead, either.

The team that reached the World Series leaning largely on analytics was undone by the data—and a decision sure to become part of October lore.

With Snell still seething, wobbly reliever Nick Anderson was on the mound when Mookie Betts' double started a sequence that led to two quick runs as the Los Angeles Dodgers rallied for a championship-clinching 3-1 victory in Game 6 on Tuesday night.

"I guess I regret it because it didn't work out," Cash said, later adding, "personally, I thought Blake had done his job and then some."

Said Snell: "At the end of the day, I see both sides."

"The hardest thing for me is I was rolling, I was in a groove. I felt like I had them guessing. It's just tough for me. It's going to be tough for me to accept that. I really don't know to look at it. However you look at it, we lost."

The Rays' pitching philosophy focuses on not allowing starters to face hitters for a third time in a game, and Snell has gotten in trouble when he's stuck around too long. But the 2018 AL Cy Young Award winner was dominant this time, and steaming when he handed the ball to Cash, regarded as one of the bright, young minds in the majors.

"I totally respect and understand the questions that come with it. Blake gave us every opportunity to win. He was outstanding. They're not easy decisions. I didn't want Mookie seeing Blake a third time," Cash said.

AP

Tampa Bay Rays starting pitcher Blake Snell throws against the Los Angeles Dodgers during the first inning in Game 6 of the baseball World Series Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2020, in Arlington, Texas.

While Anderson was warming up, the baseball world was heating up to skewer Cash.

From the harsh words of New York Mets ace Noah Syndergaard to the more measured reaction of longtime reliever Jerry Blevins, the sentiment was the same.

"So who gets to pull the manager?" Syndergaard tweeted.

"You manage a baseball game with your EYES, HEART, & GUT as well as your BRAIN," Blevins posted.

Some older sluggers weighed in as well, such as Hall of Famer Frank Thomas.

"Another Analytical Meltdown!! Total Disaster for Tampa," Thomas wrote. "Blake Snell was your only chance of winning a tight game tonight."

Why pull your best pitcher with a reasonable pitch count, nine strikeouts and just two hits simply because it's about to be the third time through the order?

DODGERS

From Page 20

The fans' reaction was ironic. In previous years, they had excoriated Roberts for leaving Kershaw in too long only to watch disaster strike. They would rip the 48-year-old manager for his use of the bullpen, using only one reliever or too many. Roberts routinely got tagged with the blame when failure occurred.

But he rarely changed his disposition. Roberts is known for being a players' manager, full of trust in his roster. He's friendly and positive with everyone. Nowhere close to being the yeller that Lasorda was.

"I try to not make things personal about me," he said. "There's always going to be skeptics, but this is something no one can take away from us."

Roberts was busy managing the game when he got hit with a shocker: third baseman Justin Turner had to come out because of a positive COVID-19 test.

"That hurts," he said. "I haven't had a chance to see Justin yet. I just knew I had to get him out of the game after the seventh inning."

After closing out the Rays, Roberts thanked two people who weren't in Texas: former pitching coach Rick Honeycutt and pitcher Ross Stripling, who was traded to Toronto in late August.

Roberts also singled out veteran ace Clayton Kershaw and closer Kenley Jansen, who struggled this season.

"For guys like Clayton, I couldn't be happier for you, Kersh. Couldn't be happier," Roberts said. "You want to talk about a narrative? How about being a champion? He's a champion forever."

Kershaw was equally happy for Roberts.

History for LA

Los Angeles reinforced its credentials as one of the greatest sports cities, as the Dodgers were crowned World Series 2020 champions on Tuesday night. The Dodgers' World Series triumph comes just weeks after the Los Angeles Lakers lifted the NBA championship, marking a record for the city of Los Angeles.

The Lakers defeated the Miami Heat in six games to lift the title and the onus was then on the Dodgers to deliver the goods in MLB.

The Dodgers delivered. Incidentally, no other city has made this feat, with Los Angeles having achieved it when the Dodgers won the World Series in 1988 against the Oakland Athletics and the Lakers topped the Detroit Pistons.

Kershaw: Proving doubters wrong

Kershaw cut through the doubters, just like one of his curveballs through the strike zone.

Only took 13 seasons.

One of the most accomplished pitchers in baseball history attained the achievement he had sought most, winning the World Series for the first time.

Kershaw went 2-0 with a 2.31 ERA over 11 2/3 innings in two starts, striking out 14 and walking three.

And he earned his title not far from his hometown of Dallas, with family and friends filling a ticket allotment supplemented with "nosebleed seats."

Watching from the Dodgers bullpen in right-center field, Kershaw raised both arms and pointed fingers toward the sky, a huge smile across his face. His blue Dodgers sweatshirt still on, he ran through the bullpen door and to the infield to join his jumping teammates.

Seager scores rare double

Corey Seager hit a rare October double, becoming Most Valuable Player of the World Series after earning the honor for the League Championship Series.

Just as Orel Hershiser did when the Los Angeles Dodgers won their previous World Series title in 1988.

Seager batted .400 with two homers, five RBIs and six walks against the Tampa Bay Rays, including a sixth-inning grounder that allowed Mookie Betts to speed home from third base with the go-ahead run Tuesday night in Game 6. The star shortstop jumped into the arms of second baseman Kiké Hernández after Julio Urías struck out Willy Adames to end a 3-1 win that clinched the championship.

Seager hit .310 with five homers and 11 RBIs in the seven-game win over Atlanta in the NL Championship Series, including three homers as the Dodgers fought off elimination in Games 5 and 6. He drove in runs in five consecutive plate appearances, starting with his last two at-bats in Game 2, matching a feat that had been accomplished only by Houston's Carlos Beltrán in 2004.

The previous MVP of both a League Championship Series and the World Series in the same year was San Francisco pitcher Madison Bumgarner in 2014. Only eight players have done it—all National Leaguers.

Seager finished the postseason batting .328 (22 for 67) with eight homers, 20 RBIs and 11 walks. The other players to win LCS and Series MVP in one year were Pittsburgh's Willie Stargell (1979), St. Louis' Darrell Porter (1982), Hershiser, the Marlins' Livan Hernandez (2003), Philadelphia's Cole Hamels (2008), the Cardinals' David Freese (2011) and Bumgarner.

WIN

From Page 20

ken when the Dodgers lost in 2017 against Houston Astros and again in 2018 versus Boston Red Sox. But, I could never root for any other team than the Dodgers. Let's go blue!" the Saipan Masters Baseball League pitcher said.

While Toves was in a good company of her grandmother when the Dodgers won in 1988, Capitol Hill resident Larry Maurin was too young to remember how Los Angeles fans celebrated that World Series win. But he recalls how San Francisco Giants gloated when they topped the World Series in 2010, 2012, and 2014, while he remained loyal with the crashing Dodgers.

"The last time they won I was 5... I was too young to remember and enjoy 1988, and I've been a life-long Dodger fan. I grew up 20 minutes from the Dodgers Stadium, I went to many Dodger games, and I lived in San Francisco when the Giants won and I had to hear Giants fans bragging but I stuck with my team. So, I am going to enjoy it and be happy for the team and the city of Los Angeles," said Maurin, who had to watch the replay of Game 6, as he was at work yesterday and could not tune in to the live coverage.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Former Saipan resident Marlon Estigoy poses for a photo at the Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles in 2017.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Larry Maurin sports a Los Angeles Dodgers cap while watching on TV the replay of Game 6 of the World Series.

The Dodgers got their first World Series title in 32 years at a time when it was uncertain whether the MLB will go ahead with the season or not due to the COVID-19 pandemic before opting for a shortened regular season.

"With or without the pandemic, they got back where they belonged (in the company of World Series champions)," said former Saipan resident Marlon Estigoy, who is now based in Los Angeles.

Mavs willing to trade anyone but Doncic, Porzingis

TEXAS—The Dallas Mavericks are thinking wins now. They have an MVP candidate in Luka Doncic and a No. 2 (or, maybe No. 3) option that pairs well with him in Kristaps Porzingis.

Those two are off the table in a trade, but anyone outside of Doncic and Porzingis is available in a win-now move that helps the Mavericks—and Dallas is working hard to get a deal done, according to Brad Townsend at the Dallas Morning News.

Dallas wants to acquire a third star to augment the pairing of Luka Doncic and Kristaps Porzingis, and if that takes adding other teams' unwanted salaries so be it. All—repeat all—Mavericks players not named Doncic or Porzingis are available. Though they currently own the 18th and 31st picks in the Nov. 18 draft, the Mavericks have a strong desire to trade into the lottery (picks 1-14).

We can debate whether moving up into the lottery in this draft is a win-now move, but the point of this rumor is clear: Dallas realizes it has taken care of the hardest part of building a contender; they have the top-five (maybe Top 10) player, now they just need another star and the right team around him.

AP

In this Nov. 18, 2019 file photo, Dallas Mavericks forward Luka Doncic (77) drives against San Antonio Spurs guard Dejounte Murray (5) in an NBA game in Dallas.

This report feels like a counter to reports (and talk around the league) that Dallas wants to preserve cap space because if Giannis Antetokounmpo leaves Milwaukee, the Mavericks might be frontrunners to land him. Remember, everything right now is spin and/or smoke designed to distract.

Dallas may well be open to a trade that brings them a young third star to pair with Doncic and Porzingis, but whether that player is available right now is another question. However, if that player becomes available, then keep an eye on the Mavericks.

Knicks to shop for young players

Depending on where the luxury tax line gets set, there could be teams looking to dump contracts to save money this offseason, willing to throw a pick or a young player in the mix to make that happen.

The Knicks are willing to take on those contracts, according to reports.

The Knicks would presumably acquire another draft pick and young player in this kind of trade. New York has the No. 8, No. 27 and No. 38 picks in the draft.

This would be smart team building by the Knicks; they need to get more draft picks and young players to build a core. This is exactly what the Knicks of the past did not do before (taking on Andre Iguodala, for example).

The timing of this leak may be about the Knicks trying to get a feel for the market. As Bagley notes in the story, the Knicks have options on four players—Bobby Portis, Wayne Ellington, Taj Gibson, and Reggie Bullock—and their decisions on those players will decide how much cap space they have (and how many/how big a bad contract they could take on).

Interesting big name "bad contracts" out there include Blake Griffin and Russell Westbrook, both of whom may be available via trade, but to get them would require sending out a lot of players. Someone like Westbrook could sell tickets and win some games for the Knicks in the short term, but he has three more years at north of $41 million on his contract. That is a lot to take on when trying to build a new roster.

Consider this something to watch. The Knicks under Leon Rose are an unpredictable team this offseason.

Meanwhile, if the NBA is going to race to start next season on Dec. 22, then the rest of the offseason will be an all-out sprint

If the draft is Nov. 18 and NBA training camps open Dec. 1, that will have free agency likely starting a few days after the draft, or early the next week. That will have free agency running hot and heavy through Thanksgiving weekend—something front office executives have grumbled about privately. They are used to working on free agency through the Fourth of July in a standard year, but Thanksgiving is a different kind of family holiday.

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Mavs willing to trade anyone but Doncic, Porzingis

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mark Toves, right, joins Jay, left, and Dylan Santos for a photo during a break in one of the games in the 2017 World Series that featured the Los Angeles Dodgers and Houston Astros.

Dodgers fans on Saipan savor World Series win

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

In 1988, veteran baseball player Mark Toves was at the Marina Del Rey in Los Angeles, watching the Dodgers defeat the Oakland Athletics in Game 5 of their best-of-seven playoff series, 8-4, to win the World Series.

Thirty-two years later on Saipan and after enduring many heartbreaking losses for his beloved team, Toves witnessed how the Dodgers exorcised the ghosts of past Octobers after beating the Tampa Bay Rays in Game 6, 3-1, yesterday in Arlington, Texas to wrap up their best-of-seven title series.

The Commonwealth Ports Police officer watched all six games of the World Series and though the Rays gave the Dodgers some anxious moments in the championship showdown after taking Games 2 and 4 and were constantly reminded of their misfortunes in more than three decades, Toves never lost his faith on the blue crew, just like how his grandmother, Natividad Santos, showed continued support to the team, win or lose.

"I watched the World Series in 1988 with my grandmother, a hard-core Dodgers and Lakers fan. I am sure she is so happy right now with this victory," said Toves, who grew up idolizing former Dodgers pitcher Fernando Valenzuela and second baseman Steve Sax. Both players were part of the 1988 team (but Valenzuela did not play in the post season due to an injury) that won the last World Series for the Dodgers before the squad went on a slump in the next 30-plus seasons in the Major League Baseball.

Included in the Dodgers' long dry spell were their back-to-back failed World Series title bids—against the Houston Astros in 2017 and the Boston Red Sox in 2018.

"I was definitely heartbro-

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Dodgers end title drought

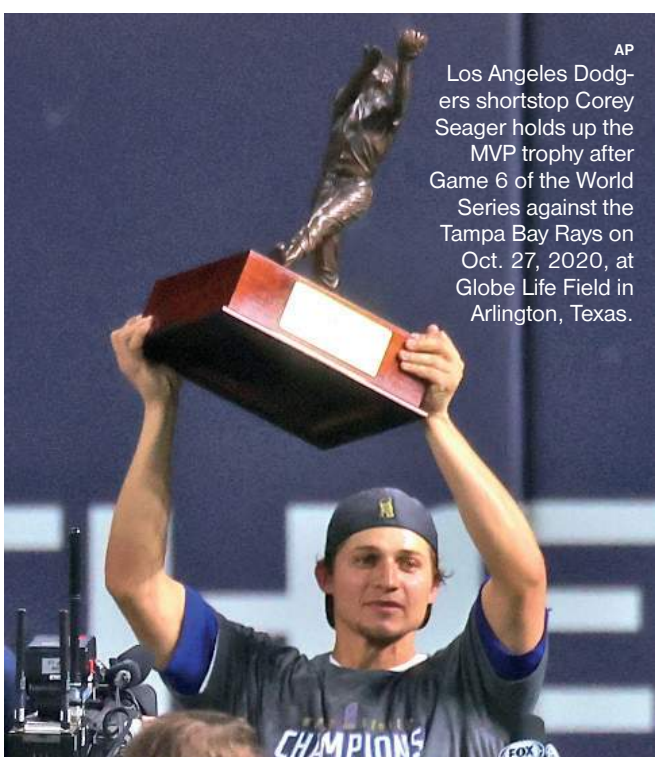
By BETH HARRIS
AP SPORTS WRITER

ARLINGTON (AP)—Dave Roberts finally has a World Series title to savor.

The Los Angeles manager guided the Dodgers to their first championship since 1988 on Tuesday night, beating the Tampa Bay Rays, 3-1, to win in six games.

"This is our year!" Roberts shouted, drawing huge cheers from about 11,000 fans in Texas.

Roberts did what his seven predecessors—including Joe Torre and Don Mattingly—failed to do, bring a championship to long-starved Dodgers fans. He joins Hall of Famers Walter Alston and Tom Lasorda as the only managers to do so.



AP

Los Angeles Dodgers shortstop Corey Seager holds up the MVP trophy after Game 6 of the World Series against the Tampa Bay Rays on Oct. 27, 2020, at Globe Life Field in Arlington, Texas.

AP

Los Angeles Dodgers celebrate after defeating the Tampa Bay Rays, 3-1, to win the baseball World Series in Game 6 Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2020, in Arlington, Texas.

"I had a crazy feeling that came to fruition," he said.

An emotional Roberts shared hugs with his players after the final out.

"It's sinking in pretty quickly," he said. "Obviously, I'm over the moon."

Roberts has taken the Dodgers to the playoffs in each of his five seasons, helping extend their streak of eight consecutive NL West titles. But until Tuesday they had never reached their ultimate goal and Roberts endured his share of criticism along the way.

Roberts got booed in Game 5 by the few fans allowed at Globe Life Field in Arlington, Texas.

The mostly pro-LA crowd didn't want Clayton Kershaw to leave so soon, but Roberts stuck to his pregame plan. He wanted his veteran ace to face 20 or so batters (he faced 21) and turn it over to the bullpen. Kershaw left after getting the first two outs of the sixth. The Dodgers went on to win 4-2.

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